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Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), by which the Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2018 and requested me to report, every 60 days, on its implementation. The report provides an update on and analysis of the conflict, the political situation and the operational environment in Darfur and the main challenges to the effective implementation of the mandate, including violations of the status of forces agreement, for the period from 16 December 2017 until 15 February 2018. It also presents the steps taken by UNAMID towards achieving its benchmarks and provides an update on progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of UNAMID (S/2017/437).

II. Conflict analysis

2. The overall security situation has remained stable. While the dry season is coming to mid-point, no major clashes have taken place between the forces of the Government of the Sudan and the Darfur armed groups; the weapons collection campaign proceeded in the Jebel Marra area, while encountering resistance from the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) elements; tensions increased in some internally displaced persons camps in Central Darfur. The period also witnessed fewer incidents of intercommunal conflicts, banditry and criminality, human rights abuses and cases of harassment, in particular of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups. The overall humanitarian situation remained largely unchanged, despite the new displacement of several hundred persons from eastern Jebel Marra, as a result of fighting between two SLA/AW factions. The African Union High-level Implementation Panel-led peace process in Darfur remained stalled, and the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur has been constrained by the lack of capacity and resources, for which the Government is seeking external assistance.

Fighting between the Government of the Sudan forces and armed groups

3. The armed groups of the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM) and Justice and the Gibril Ibrahim faction of the Justice and Equality Movement

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(JEM/Gibril) continued to remain largely inactive in Darfur, while the area of operations of SLA/AW continued to be limited to pockets of the Jebel Marra. On 18 January, UNAMID reported clashes between the Rapid Support Force (RSF) and SLA/AW in Kurmul village, north-east of Golo and near Kati village, 15 km south-east of Golo, in the Jebel Marra, during a weapons collection campaign in the area. Reportedly, one RSF officer was reported killed and another injured. On 24 January, RSF clashed in the border village of Kalabah, some 250 km south of Ed Daein, with a group believed to be JEM/Gibril, which entered from South Sudan. RSF reportedly incurred three fatalities. Nonetheless, the rebel movements JEM, SLA/MM and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Transitional Council (SLM/TC) issued a joint statement on 3 February extending their unilateral cessation of hostilities until 30 April, following a presidential decree on 4 January extending the Government's own unilateral ceasefire for three months until the end of March.

Weapons collection campaign and impact on security

4. The Government of the Sudan continued its implementation of the compulsory phase of the weapons collection campaign, including in internally displaced persons camps, and recently moved into the Jebel Marra areas under the control of SLA/AW. Some progress has been registered by Darfur state officials since the beginning of the campaign in August last year. The Wali of North Darfur reported that, out of an estimated 700,000 weapons believed to be in illegal circulation across Darfur, only 30,000 (including 9,000 in North Darfur) had been collected. On 20 December, the South Darfur joint weapons collection committee reported that the total number of weapons collected voluntarily in the state was 8,000, including 1,373 collected from the Popular Defence Forces. The committee further reported that, consequently, the crime rate in South Darfur decreased by 24 per cent, while the incidence of major crimes such as murder, armed robbery and rape decreased by 35 per cent over the period of the collection campaign.

5. According to the mission's assessment, the campaign appears to have constrained various armed militia and criminals from freely using their weapons, thus contributing to an improved overall security situation, especially in North and South Darfur. The leaders of Abu Shouk camp in El Fasher stated that, following the weapons collection campaign in parts of North Darfur, the security situation had improved and some internally displaced persons returned seasonally to their places of origin in Jebel Si in Kabkabiyah locality, in Tila, Hillet Fuocca, Lumbati, Jabalen and Tangarara villages in Korma locality, and Kofod village in El Fasher rural area. Sudan Police sources reported that, in Otash internally displaced persons camp, Nyala, South Darfur, internally displaced persons' leaders handed over 821 weapons during the voluntary phase of the campaign. In the Kalma internally displaced persons camp in South Darfur, the agreement reached between the Government of the Sudan and the leadership of the camp, facilitated by UNAMID, continued to hold. The Government has committed not to forcefully collect weapons without consultation with UNAMID or the leadership of the internally displaced persons. Massalit leaders have also reported returns in the areas around Graida, South Darfur, following the weapons collection campaign in the locality, but they complained about the lack of basic services and infrastructure, and requested decisive measures on land dispute issues.

6. As the campaign moved into internally displaced persons camps, internally displaced persons were reported to have been either physically assaulted or harassed on a number of occasions by RSF during the weapons collection. On 10 January, at the Thur internally displaced persons camp, Central Darfur, RSF reportedly arrested four internally displaced persons. On 11 January, during the weapons collection in North and Straha internally displaced persons camps, Central Darfur, RSF reportedly arrested 8 Fur and 20 Arab sheikhs in order to gather information about persons in

possession of weapons and the hiding places for weapons and motorcycles. While local leaders in Nertiti locality, Central Darfur, expressed support for the weapons collections campaign, they stressed that it should be inclusive in order to also ensure the disarmament of nomadic communities.

Intercommunal conflicts

7. During the reporting period, the number of intercommunal conflicts over land, livestock thefts and farm destructions decreased, and fatalities also decreased to 11 from 45 during the previous reporting period. Several tribal reconciliation initiatives also took place. Most local communities, including internally displaced persons, attributed this trend to the ongoing weapons collection campaign and more resolute intervention from the Government to prevent an escalation of tensions among communities.

8. In South Darfur, clashes took place between the Mahadi and the Birgid in Hash area, 50 km north-east of Graida, on 17 December, which resulted in one fatality on each side. During 2017, the two communities had disputes over land ownership on the border between Graida and Yasin localities. On 18 December, Government forces were deployed to contain the situation and RSF was mandated to disarm the feuding parties. On 21 December, the Sudan Police Force arrested four *umdas* (local tribal leaders) and seven youths from the Mahadi community for their involvement in the incident, and the community leaders are working with the local government towards resolving the dispute.

9. In East Darfur, to replace the buffer zone committee between the Ma'aliva and the Rizeigat that was dissolved in November 2017, the Wali established a joint mechanism on 7 January to regulate agricultural activities and tackle cattle rustling. The mechanism is composed of 14 members with equal representation from both tribes. On 23 January, the Birgid and the Zaghawa, in a ceremony attended by Vice-President Hassabo Mohamed Abdul Rahman, signed a peace agreement in Shearia town, recommending the restitution of Zaghawa properties in Shearia, including shops and houses, allocation of farm lands to Zaghawa returnees and the formation of a mechanism to sustain the return process and the implementation of development programmes, in coordination with the United Nations. On 27 and 28 January, the Vice-President visited Adilla and Abu Karinka, for a reconciliatory meeting between the Ma'aliva and the Rizeigat, and made a commitment to implement several development projects related to health, education and infrastructure in the area.

Violence against civilians and human rights violations

10. The overall human rights situation in Darfur remained volatile. UNAMID documented cases of violations of the right to life, arbitrary arrests and detention and sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence. Internally displaced and other vulnerable persons continued to face harassment while conducting their daily livelihood activities. UNAMID documented 84 new cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 192 victims, including 27 children, during the reporting period, compared with 58 cases of human rights violations and abuses, involving 123 victims, including 18 children, during the previous reporting period. Violations of the right to life accounted for 12 cases, involving 18 victims, and violations of the right to physical integrity for 27 cases, involving 60 victims. There were 35 cases of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, in the form of rape and attempted rape, involving 43 victims, including 22 children (with one male minor), and 9 cases of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention, involving 70 victims.

11. The mission confirmed 64 cases of human rights violations and abuses, involving 171 victims, but the remaining 20 cases, involving 21 victims, could not be verified. Of the 84 reported cases, 19 cases, involving 58 victims, were reportedly perpetrated by government security forces and auxiliary groups, and 39 cases, involving 87 victims, were allegedly perpetrated by unidentified armed men. Investigations were reportedly initiated in 32 documented cases, resulting in 12 arrests, highlighting concerns over the lack of efficiency of law enforcement and prosecutorial services in some areas.

12. The mission continued to document incidents of sexual violence and grave violations against children. On 19 December, UNAMID was informed of the alleged gang rape of a female internally displaced person by three Sudan Police personnel while she was in detention at a police cell in Nyala, South Darfur. The response of law enforcement institutions remains deficient, and psychosocial support for survivors was inadequate. The Women's Protection Network reported that two girls aged 12 and 13, and a 22-year-old woman were allegedly gang raped on 16 December 2017 by eight armed men at Kargo, 10 km east of Nertiti. The incident was reported to Sudan Police and one suspect was apprehended and is awaiting prosecution. On 25 December, four armed men in civilian clothes attempted to rape three internally displaced women in Balda area, approximately 7 km north-east of Hamidiya camp for internally displaced persons in Zalingei. On 26 December, four women were severely beaten by three armed militiamen at Dankoj, 40 km north-east of Zalingei.

13. The reporting period witnessed an overall decline in criminal activities. However, with the ongoing harvest season, incidents of crop destruction and related violence persisted in some areas. Internally displaced persons were targeted in 68 criminal incidents, which led to five fatalities. Other civilians were affected by 92 crime-related incidents resulting in 17 fatalities, including cases of murder (14), armed robbery (9), attempted robbery (2), assault/harassment (26), burglary/break-in (4), looting (2), abduction (3), shooting (15), attack/ambush (1), arson (1), livestock theft (13) and others (2). In the previous reporting period, internally displaced persons and other civilians were affected by 123 and 208 criminal incidents, respectively, resulting in the deaths of 8 internally displaced persons and 42 other civilians.

14. Tensions increased in two camps for internally displaced persons in Central Darfur, notably Hasahisa and the Hamidiya camps, near Zalingei. Following a quarrel between members of the Fur internally displaced persons and of the Beni Halba host community in December 2017, the internally displaced persons prevented all Beni Halba from entering the Hasahisa market. On 20 January the two groups engaged in a violent confrontation, which resulted in four internally displaced persons and one Beni Halba being killed and 38 persons being injured. In a separate incident, on 22 January, two internally displaced persons from Hamidiya camp were assaulted by a group of men while conducting livelihood activities outside the camp, and on 31 January there were clashes between internally displaced persons from Hamidiya camp and the Beni Halba, who prevented them from collecting wood in Boronka area (10 km from the camp). Sudan Police created a buffer zone in Hasahisa camp, arrested three suspects, and are working with the community leaders towards a reconciliation initiative.

15. Criminal elements associated with the Sudan Liberation Army/Peace and Development (SLA/PD) continued to harass the internally displaced persons community in Sortony, while provoking clashes with the nomadic tribes in the area. Following the theft, on 6 January, of 14 cattle by SLA/PD from the nomads in the area tensions rose between the nomads and internally displaced persons in Sortony gathering site, where SLA/PD took shelter. Government security personnel intervened on 23 January to arrest those responsible and to collect weapons in the camp, which proceeded without incident. On 30 January, government representatives of Kass

locality, South Darfur, informed the inhabitants of Singita village (19 km south of the UNAMID team site) of the Government's decision to divide farming land between villagers and new settlers, nomads living around the village. The villagers were reportedly requested to vacate their fields or to face forceful vacation by 6 February. The villagers resolved not to move out and nominated a committee to discuss the issue with the Commissioner of Kass locality.

III. Political situation

16. On 31 December, the Sudan National Assembly passed the 2018 budget, which was criticized by many members of the general public, financial experts and opposition leaders. Some Assembly Members voted against the budget proposal or boycotted the voting session, as the budget purportedly neglects the productive sectors and basic services such as agriculture, education and health, allocating a mere 3.65 per cent to education and 2.7 per cent to the health sector, while the defence and security apparatus received a total of 16.37 per cent of the overall budget.

17. The depreciation of the Sudanese pound against the United States dollar, and corresponding increases in the prices of basic commodities, began to negatively affect the lives of the Sudanese population, leading to demonstrations in several states across the country. On 7 January, students took to the streets in El Geneina, West Darfur, damaging some facilities, including the headquarters of the ruling National Congress Party. They were subsequently forcefully dispersed by the Sudan Police and RSF, resulting in the killing of a high school student and five other casualties, including a police officer. On 16 and 17 January, additional protests were organized in Khartoum and, on 31 January, similar demonstrations took place in Khartoum and other cities, including Zalingei, Central Darfur.

18. In Khartoum and Gezira states, in central Sudan, on 5 January, following protests against the recent increases in the prices of basic commodities, the Sudanese authorities launched a campaign of arrests and publication bans. Some opposition political parties supported the protests, calling on the people to take to the streets. On 7 January, the National Intelligence and Security Services ceased publication of six newspapers, most likely in reaction to news reports on price increases and the high cost of living. The Reform Now Movement, led by Ghazi Salah al-Din, criticized the National Intelligence and Security Services for restricting fundamental and press freedoms.

19. On 24 January, the President of the Sudan, Omar Hassan al-Bashir formed five presidential councils, namely, the Council of Presidency Affairs, the National Council for Macroeconomics, the National Information Council, the National Council for Foreign Policy and the Unity and Peace Council, to oversee the implementation of the national dialogue recommendations. On 28 January, Reform Now issued a statement denouncing this decision, arguing that it was contrary to the spirit of the National Dialogue, and that it had the potential to weaken the cabinet and undermine the Constitution. The Popular Congress Party expressed similar views. Other opposition parties are concerned that this decision will give excessive executive and legislative powers to the President.

20. At the regional level, improved relations of the Sudan with its neighbours continue to be manifested in decreasing support for the Darfur armed movements. On 5 January, however, on grounds of security concerns over human trafficking, illegal drugs and weapons collection, the Government of the Sudan closed its border with Eritrea and, on the same day, the Sudan recalled its Ambassador to Egypt for consultations. On 28 January, meeting on the sidelines of the African Union Summit, the presidents of Egypt and the Sudan agreed to form a ministerial committee to deal

with all bilateral issues and overcome all obstacles, following recent tensions between the two countries. In a related development, the leaders of Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan met on 29 January in a bid to break a deadlock in negotiations over the building of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance dam across the River Nile by Ethiopia. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism of the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan was convened in extraordinary session on 4 February to adopt measures related to the redeployment of forces outside the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, the beginning of phase one of the border crossing corridors and the activation of the Technical Ad-Hoc Border Committee of the 14-Mile Area.

IV. Humanitarian situation

21. The reporting period witnessed new displacement of families from eastern Jebel Marra, and a number of refugees returning from the Central African Republic. On 2 January, some 129 families from East Jebel Marra locality arrived in Otash internally displaced persons camp near Nyala, South Darfur, fleeing infighting between Gadora and Zanoon SLA/AW factions. The infighting reportedly started in November over control of checkpoints and tax collection from farmers selling their products in Deribat, Kidingeer and Kara. As at the end of December 2017, nearly 1,500 people returned after 10 years from the Central African Republic to Dafag, Radom Locality, South Darfur, with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Basic services in health, water sanitation and hygiene and education, together with the clearance of unexploded ordnance, are among their most immediate needs.

22. The population in Jebel Marra region remained the most vulnerable in terms of food security and livelihoods, followed by returnees in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur. However, improved access within Jebel Marra in recent months has enabled humanitarian partners to identify critical needs, including access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, as well as major gaps in education and protection. Regarding the outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea, the Federal Ministry of Health reported that, as at 30 December, all five Darfur states were declared free of the disease. There were no reported cases and deaths from acute watery diarrhoea in Darfur during the reporting period, compared with 79 cases and two deaths in the previous reporting period.

23. With regard to food security, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network reported very poor seasonal activities in pastoral and agricultural areas of North Darfur, which could result in increased need for food assistance, agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods support until mid-2018. Land access restrictions, limited agricultural labour opportunities and low asset holdings resulting from the impact of the prevailing insecurity conditions in parts of Jebel Marra continue to limit household productive capacity. Recent increases in commodity prices, such as that of wheat, have negatively affected food security, in particular among vulnerable populations.

V. Operating environment

Attacks and threats of attack targeting African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, United Nations and humanitarian personnel

24. A total of 26 criminal incidents targeting United Nations and humanitarian personnel were reported, compared with 25 in the previous reporting period. The incidents included a gunshot fired by an unidentified person at an observation tower at Nyala "super camp", South Darfur, on 27 December, in which no injury was

reported. Other incidents included a case of robbery and 15 cases of premises intrusion/theft/break-in/attempted theft, mostly in Nyala.

Detention of staff

25. On 21 December, the National Intelligence and Security Services arrested and detained a UNAMID national staff member at the airport in El Geneina, West Darfur. The staff member was released the same day without any charges, and the National Intelligence and Security Services gave no reason for the arrest. On 2 January, at Zalingei market, Central Darfur, Sudan Police personnel assaulted and arrested a UNAMID national staff member over an alleged traffic violation by a member of his family. He was released the same day after a brief hospitalization. On 8 January, in El Geneina, West Darfur, a UNAMID national staff member was arrested and detained by National Intelligence and Security Services personnel over allegations of involvement in a violent anti-government demonstration. The staff member was released on the same day without charges.

Access restrictions

26. Humanitarian access continued to improve across Darfur. There were, however, two incidents of access restriction during the reporting period, in North and South Darfur respectively. In West Darfur, reports indicate increased disruptions by the National Intelligence and Security Services to the activities of humanitarian non-governmental organizations. These include delays in the issuance of permission to carry out assessments, the processing of travel notifications, the purchase of fuel and interference in bidding processes. The humanitarian community continued to advocate for access to locations in the Jebel Marra, such as Boldong, Kutrum and Kwila, which remain inaccessible to the United Nations and partners, while United Nations Humanitarian Air Service flights to Golo and Rockero continue.

27. The mission did not record any flight clearance denials. However, the Government delayed approval of the mission's operation of its four Mi-17 military utility helicopters within Darfur until the tactical forward-looking infrared cameras and machine guns were removed from the helicopters. The helicopters are partially operational and can undertake routine logistical tasks.

Visas and customs clearance

28. The Government granted 390 visas for UNAMID staff, representing 68 per cent of visa requests for the period, including 12 for civilian staff, 53 for military personnel, 120 for police personnel, 100 for official visitors, 98 for contractors, 1 for a consultant, and 6 for dependents. A total of 73 visa requests are being processed, while a total of 188 visa requests are pending beyond the normal approval period of 15 days, some since April 2016. These include 95 for contractors, 24 for police, 28 for civilian staff, 27 for military personnel, 11 for United Nations Volunteers, two for official visitors and one for a consultant. For the Human Rights Section, 17 visa applications remain pending, resulting in a vacancy rate of 32 per cent, while the overall vacancy rate for the mission's international civilian staff decreased from 17 per cent to 6 per cent, of which 3 per cent is due to pending visas. The decrease in the vacancy rate is due to the abolishment of posts in accordance with the 2017/18 budget, approved on 23 December 2017.

29. The Government of the Sudan has gradually released food ration containers from Port Sudan. While progress has been recorded in clearing other shipments, currently 36 shipments (compared with 55 shipments during the previous reporting period) of contingent- and United Nations-owned equipment are still pending, two since 2015. UNAMID continued to hold monthly technical-level meetings with

government officials in an effort to resolve various pending issues, including visas and customs clearances. The Government informed the mission that it would receive a communication by February 2018 outlining new procedures that will replace the tax exemption certificate.

VI. Progress towards achievement of the strategic objectives of the mission

Protection of civilians

30. The mission integrated field protection teams conducted a total of 89 missions in North, West, South and Central Darfur from 16 December 2017 to 31 January 2018. In North Darfur, these teams conducted 65 visits to various locations in Korma, Umm Barru, Saraf Omra and Kabkabiyah, where the security situation was generally assessed to be calm, partly owing to the Government disarmament campaign. In Korma and Umm Barru, internally displaced persons complained of being prevented from collecting grass and firewood by nomads, who had also occupied some of their villages. Residents in the villages of Abu Leha, Musbat, Shegue-Karo, Furawiya and Jurajeem, situated 35–68 km from Um Baru, criticized the use of force during the ongoing weapons collection campaign. In West Darfur, the teams visited 15 locations, which consisted of the internally displaced persons camps of Ardamata, Dorti and Hujaj and the villages of Adar, Anjimi, Atiyya, Kuraynik, Abu Suruj, Kurti, Conjoltory, Nurei, Khor Sayal, Hilat Ardeib, Jokhana and Faganta. The security risk level was found to be low.

31. Following reports of livestock rustling and harassment of internally displaced persons at Sortony gathering site by SLA/PD elements, UNAMID held a meeting on 11 January with the national armed forces, internally displaced persons, nomadic community leaders and a SLA/PD representative. The parties concluded that SLA/PD was responsible for the theft. The following day SLA/PD handed over 11 of the 14 missing cattle. The national armed forces officer assured that SLA/PD personnel would soon be moved out of Sortony to prevent tensions between nomadic communities and the internally displaced persons.

32. UNAMID military conducted a total of 12,387 patrols, of which 5,505 were for the protection of civilians (3,760 short range patrols, 323 long range patrols and 1,422 night patrols) and 6,764 for protection of UNAMID personnel and equipment (5,914 routine patrols and 850 logistics and administrative escorts). In total, 2,539 visits to villages and 2,255 visits to internally displaced persons camps were conducted and 428 patrols were conducted in support of firewood collection and farming activities. UNAMID police conducted 1,832 patrols, including 779 confidence-building patrols to internally displaced persons camps, 230 firewood/grass patrols, 73 market patrols, 416 villages patrols, 273 town patrols, 20 area of returns patrols and 41 commercial route patrols to respond to the security needs of the internally displaced persons, in particular women and children engaged in livelihood activities outside their camps. In addition, 308 joint patrols, involving 958 community policing volunteers, were conducted as part of crime prevention initiatives. These patrols helped to monitor security and provided a safe and protective environment in internally displaced persons camps. UNAMID uniformed personnel (military and police) provided 223 escorts to humanitarian partners

33. The mission continued to work with justice and human rights institutions to strengthen their capacities, including on the resolution of community conflict. The mission, in collaboration with the Sudan Judiciary, developed a handbook on relevant civil and criminal procedures and dispute mediation, providing legal guidance to rural court judges for the management of disputes, including over land and other conflict

drivers. The handbook was launched on 17 January, concluding two years of engagement with the judiciary on strengthening the capacity of rural courts. On 24 December, UNAMID, in collaboration with the Public Prosecution Office and the Wali's office in North Darfur successfully intervened to secure the release of 18 juveniles who were being detained under the emergency law. UNAMID further consulted with relevant child welfare agencies regarding psychosocial support for and welfare of the children. Three juveniles who had been sentenced to death and detained with other prisoners in Nyala Central Prison were transferred to Shallah Juvenile Facility in North Darfur upon the mission's intervention.

34. The Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur in El Fasher sentenced two Rizeigat tribe members to 13 years' imprisonment, accusing them of killing eight internally displaced persons and injuring seven others in an attack near the Sortony internally displaced persons gathering site in May 2016. The case, considered to be a precedent, was successfully prosecuted by the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes in Darfur, despite pressure from tribal militia. UNAMID monitored the trial throughout. In another development, on 18 December, a 27-year-old suspect accused of raping a 13-year-old girl was sentenced to death in Nyala. UNAMID is also monitoring the trial in the child court in El Fasher in the case of a national staff member who is accused of raping a 13-year-old girl.

35. To improve security conditions, eight security coordination meetings were held with the participation of the Sudan Police Force, UNAMID police, non-governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations, representatives of internally displaced persons and community leaders in all five states of Darfur. Five community safety committees were established at Sharib, Adda and Majmere villages in El Geneina, West Darfur, Kalma in Nyala, South Darfur, and Tabaldi village in East Darfur. These meetings have encouraged the community to support the implementation of community policing initiatives and have enhanced safety and security in the internally displaced persons camps. Seven training courses, including on first aid, community policing and criminal investigation, were conducted for 165 male Sudan Police Force officers from 26 December to 1 January at Nyala Sudan Police Force Training Centre, South Darfur, the team site at Kutum, North Darfur and SPF headquarters in El Geneina, West Darfur. A total of 10 training courses on community policing, human rights, sexual and gender-based violence and computer skills were conducted for 179 (92 male and 87 female) internally displaced persons in El Sherif and Otash, South Darfur, Umm Barru, North Darfur and the team site at Masteri, West Darfur. The training courses raised the awareness of the participants on reporting cases to the Sudan Police Force. UNAMID police, at the request of the Sudan Police Force, started an initiative to support the Sudan Police Force in the development of police-related standard operating procedures.

36. UNAMID visited Hamidiya camp for internally displaced persons in Central Darfur to monitor gender and women's protection issues on 19 and 26 December 2017. UNAMID advocated for policy reforms and laws promoting women's rights, during a Darfur-wide advocacy and awareness campaign to end gender-based violence and other violence against women. The mission, in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), supported the State Ministries of Social Affairs in conducting campaigns during the 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence that brought together over 5,000 people in the five Darfur states. UNAMID organized training sessions for 146 peacekeepers, including 31 women, to strengthen their capacities on gender equality in peacekeeping.

37. UNAMID continued to provide capacity-building support to law enforcement, human rights and transitional justice institutions in order to strengthen their capacity to promote and protect human rights in Darfur. In collaboration with the National

Human Rights Commission, UNAMID conducted two workshops to review the Commission's five-year action plan in Nyala, South Darfur, on 18 December 2017, and in Ed Daein, East Darfur, on 27 December 2017. The workshops focused on key elements of the action plan and the resources required to ensure its successful implementation across Darfur, underscoring the need to provide strategic direction for the National Human Rights Commission. Representatives of the legislative councils, members of the South Darfur Bar Association, judicial officials, civil society groups and native administration officials, participated in both workshops.

38. Explosive ordnance continued to pose a threat, with four incidents reported, in which a total of nine people were injured. UNAMID deployed clearance teams in North, South, West and Central Darfur, which conducted general explosive hazard assessment and disposal operations in 64 villages, addressing 55 hazardous areas and destroying 2,558 items of unexploded ordnance and 44,468 rounds of expired ammunition. UNAMID conducted risk-awareness training that benefited 49,733 individuals: 10,756 men, 5,676 women, 18,995 boys and 14,303 girls. Such activities contributed to a more secure environment for livelihood activities and the safe conduct of mission patrols and humanitarian assistance.

39. UNAMID completed explosive remnants of war clearance and risk education at the site of a government ammunition depot, in Al Matara, Nyala, at which an explosion occurred. Additionally, UNAMID provided technical and logistical support in the form of advice to the Sudan Police Force for the destruction of weapons collected during the ongoing campaign, as well as 50 containers for safe storage.

40. UNAMID, in collaboration with the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission and the United Nations country team, provided logistical support for the setting up of the demobilization camp at the RSF base in Dar al Argam, El Fasher. Between 26 December and 10 January, a total of 494 ex-combatants, including members of breakaway factions during 2017, (85 women and 409 men) out of the planned total of 500 from signatories of the Doha Document, were demobilized. They were all profiled and registered for the reintegration programme and each received a reinsertion package of 1,500 Sudanese pounds from UNAMID and three bags of sorghum from the World Food Programme.

41. During the reporting period, UNAMID trained 611 (544 male and 67 female) personnel, comprising 388 military personnel, 4 civilians and 219 civilian police, on Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, as well as on relevant national and international instruments for protecting children; on the impact of armed conflict on children; on child labour and child trafficking; and on guiding principles and categories of child rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNAMID also delivered 10 training and sensitization activities for 1,122 beneficiaries (544 female and 578 male), including 1,048 internally displaced persons, community leaders, 6 members of the Sudanese Armed Forces, 28 Sudan Police Force members and 40 prison officers, on the impact of armed conflict on children and on juvenile justice.

Support for the Darfur peace process and the implementation of the Doha Document

42. The Darfur peace process remains stalled and no progress has been noted during the reporting period. In the meantime, the mission is engaging the state authorities on the implementation of the outstanding provisions of the Doha Document. On 19 December 2017 and 18 January 2018, UNAMID met the East Darfur High Court Judge to follow up on the concerns of internally displaced persons in El Neem camp about the illegal occupation and misappropriation of their lands. The mission was informed that the "Right to land restitution policy", enacted by the state legislative

council in June 2017, will be implemented in 2018. The policy is aimed at addressing land issues and providing legal assistance to the original landowners, including the opportunity to reclaim and formalize their land ownership rights through formal courts. A successful implementation of this policy would address one of the root causes of the conflict in Darfur. UNAMID was requested to assist with the dissemination of the provisions of the policy among the internally displaced communities.

43. The mission was also informed that the Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission of West Darfur is mapping areas for the permanent return of internally displaced persons, and in this context 20 development projects are planned for eight localities in the state, including the construction of health centres, schools and police stations.

Mediation of intercommunal violence

44. UNAMID pursued mediation initiatives at the community level. On 19 December 2017, UNAMID conducted a sensitization campaign in Abu Karinka, East Darfur, to reinforce the implementation of an agreement signed between the Berti and the Ma'aliva in April 2017, following violent conflict triggered by the destruction of a farm in Nair area (41 km east of Abu Karinka). No violent incidents have occurred between the two communities since the agreement was signed and displaced families from Nair area have returned to their villages. Leaders of the Ma'aliva and Berti youths appealed to the mission to drill boreholes and rehabilitate existing ones, as well as build health and cultural centres.

45. In support of efforts to mitigate and prevent violence between farmers and nomadic herders during the harvest season, UNAMID conducted dialogue and consultation forums in East, Central, West and North Darfur. Forums were conducted in West Darfur on 18 December in Megmary return area (46 km west of Mornie) and Anjimi return village (29 km north-east of Masteri, in East Darfur on 19 and 20 December, in Yassin (75 km west of Ed Daein) and Muhajeria (84 km north-west of Ed Daein) and in Deleliba village (19 km north-east of El Geneina) in Central Darfur on 19 December. The forums were attended by 243 participants, including 75 women, representing farmers, herders, native administration, returnees, youth, women and internally displaced persons. Their recommendations included the continuation of the weapons collection campaign, the demarcation of migratory routes, capacity-building for the native administration to resolve disputes and enforcement of the rules governing migration and farming, as well as the provision of basic services. Community leaders reported that the dialogue forum for farmers and nomadic herders conducted by the mission in Nurei, West Darfur, in December 2017, resulted in 140 families returning to their village. UNAMID conducted a peaceful coexistence dialogue forum in West Darfur on 31 January in Fufu return area (15 km south of Mornie) and a peace forum in North Darfur on 1 February in Birka village (40 km west of El Fasher town), both events attended by some 1,100 representatives.

VII. Progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the strategic review (S/2017/437)

Implementation of phase one and preparations for phase two

46. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), the first phase of the reconfiguration of UNAMID is now complete. The mission adopted the Jebel Mara Task Force concept of operations on 7 December 2017, its civilian head was appointed on 13 December and its military began operations on 31 January. The

mission has completed the process of identifying civilian staff to be deployed to the Task Force and the deployment is ongoing. The military component is already undertaking the tasks within Task Force areas in Central Darfur. Furthermore, on 21 January, an advance reconnaissance team of the Chinese engineering company arrived in Zalingei to provide support in executing Task Force-related infrastructure work, including the upgrading of the Nertiti-Golo road. On 29 January, UNAMID signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of the Sudan regarding the opening of a temporary operating base in Golo, Central Darfur State, and the land was formally handed over to the mission.

47. On 31 January, phase two of the reconfiguration was initiated. During this phase, a further three infantry battalions will be repatriated from the mission as they hand over the team sites to formed police units. In this context, two infantry battalions (Senegal and Rwanda) are planned to be repatriated in February 2018, while the departure of the third battalion (Ethiopia) has been delayed until the end of June 2018, owing to security concerns in Kalma internally displaced persons camp in South Darfur State. In accordance with the joint assessment by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of phase one of the reconfiguration of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2018/12) and the statement by the President of the Security Council of 31 January 2018 (S/PRST/2018/4), the third battalion will cease operations on 1 June for repatriation by 30 June. The second phase also includes the closure of three military sector headquarters (Sectors East, North and West), leaving the Force with two sectors, the Jebel Marra Task Force, with its headquarters at Zalingei, and the State Security Assistance Force, with its headquarters at Nyala. This is also accompanied by the repatriation of around 100 staff officers and military observers. The police component will operate from three sectors (Sectors Central, North and South) following the merger of Sector East with Sector South and Sector West with Sector Central) by mid-February, and will deploy 22 police officers to Golo in support of operational activities of the newly established temporary operating base.

Civilian staffing review

48. The staffing review, in addition to budgetary decisions by legislative bodies, resulted in a two-phased net reduction of 563 positions, comprising 584 posts abolished, 21 posts established and the nationalization of 26 posts that were approved by the legislative bodies as part of the revised 2017/18 budget. The two-phased reduction led to the abolishment of 405 posts by 31 December 2017 and an additional 158 posts planned by 30 June 2018. The civilian staffing review team proposed a further reduction of 302 posts during 2018–2019, which was subsequently reduced to 293 further to consultation with the mission.

Joint African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur-United Nations country team fundraising strategy for sustaining peace in Darfur

49. The mission and the United Nations country team are in the process of finalizing a joint financing approach for sustaining peace in Darfur. The approach is focusing on the political engagement of the United Nations system, including aid agencies — multilateral, regional and bilateral — and Member States in order to support a successful transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and reduce the likelihood of relapse into conflict. Discussions are based on lessons learned from past experiences and are considering both the issue of programmatic funding in peacekeeping budgets as a transitional measure during the drawdown, as well as voluntary contributions.

VIII. Observations

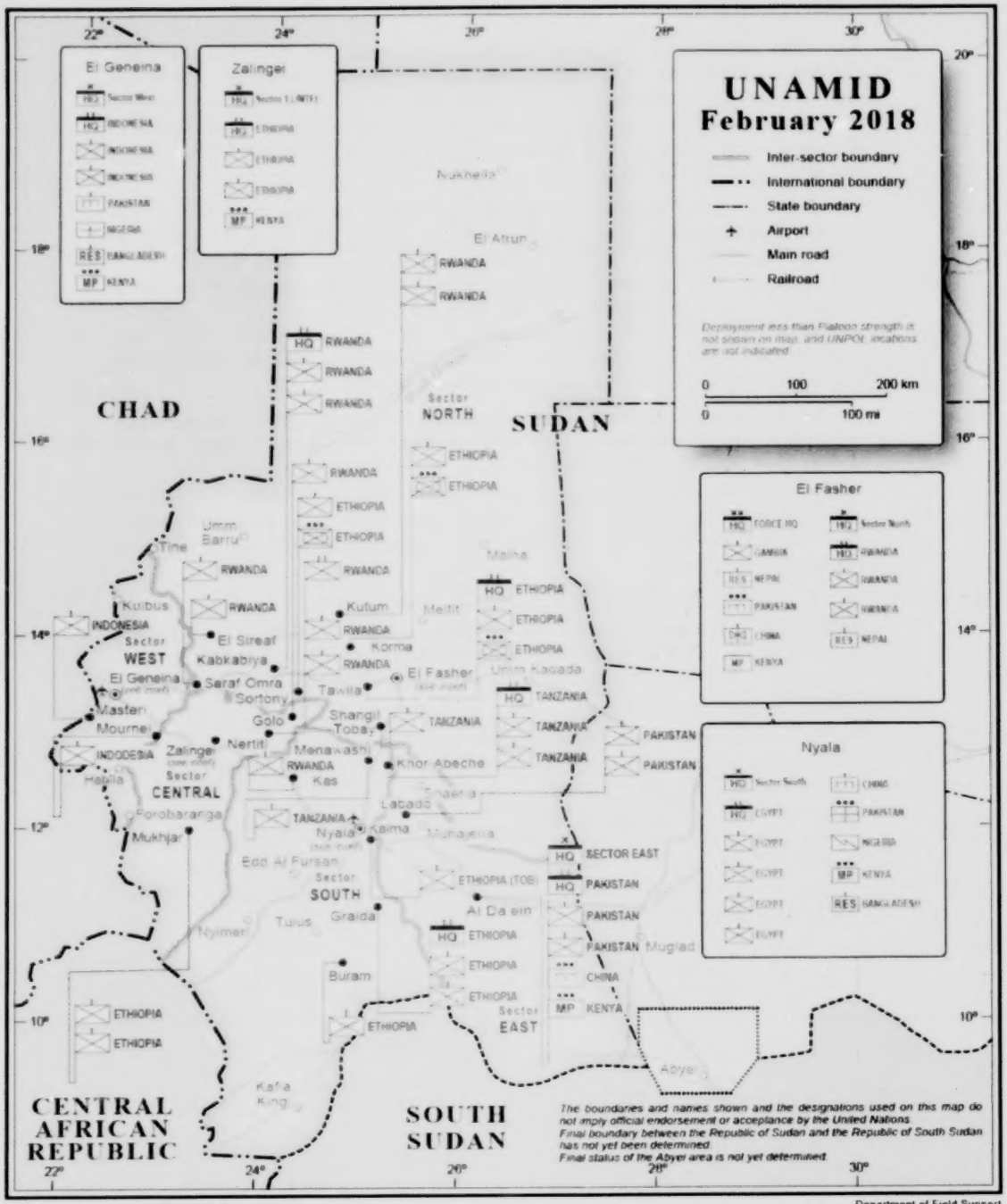
50. I am encouraged by the positive developments in the security environment and the impact of the weapons collection campaign in creating security for all Darfuris and an enabling environment for addressing the concerns of internally displaced persons and finding durable solutions for them. I call upon the Government, similarly, to ensure that the campaign is inclusive and conducted with full respect for the human and legal rights of all citizens.

51. It is regrettable, however, that no tangible progress has been made in finding a comprehensive political solution to the conflict in Darfur. The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur constitutes a viable framework for the peace process in Darfur and I call upon the rebel groups to demonstrate leadership and courage by engaging positively in its implementation for the benefit of the Darfuris. In this regard, I commend the continued efforts made by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, supported by the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative, to bring the parties to the negotiation table.

52. While I applaud the improvements in the security situation, I am concerned that the root causes of the conflict and their attendant consequences remain largely unaddressed. The civilian population, including internally displaced persons in Darfur, are yet to benefit from the political realities and the legislative space of the Doha Document and its provisions on the management of land and other resources. Their engagement in implementing these provisions is key to a lasting peace in Darfur.

53. I commend UNAMID for the timely conclusion of phase one of its reconfiguration. The mission has begun the implementation of phase two, and I thank the Government of the Sudan for its cooperation and support in this complex process, and remain confident of its continued support in the implementation of the mission's mandate.

54. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Joint Special Representative, Jeremiah Nyamane Kingsley Mamabolo, and all the personnel of UNAMID, the United Nations country team and the humanitarian community, who continue to work tirelessly to improve the lives of the people of Darfur. I commend my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, and the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki, as well as the former President of Nigeria, Abdulsalami Abubakar of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, for their steadfast commitment to sustainable peace and stability in the Sudan.


UNAMID
February 2018
Inter-sector boundary
International boundary
State boundary
Airport
Main road
Railroad
Deployment less than Platoon strength is not shown on map, and UNPOL locations are not indicated.
0 100 200 km
0 100 mi
El Geneina
Zalingei
El Fasher
Nyala
CHAD
SUDAN
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
SOUTH SUDAN
Sector WEST
Sector NORTH
Sector CENTRAL
Sector SOUTH
Sector EAST
SECTOR EAST
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

Map No. 4327 Rev. 32 UNITED NATIONS
February 2018 (Colour)

Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)

United Nations S/2018/155

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 23 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in response to the letter dated 7 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/104), I should like to convey to you the following information.

France has not desisted from its policy of pushing lies and unbelievable claims in the Security Council by circulating letters that are aimed at turning the facts upside down and protecting the Nusrah Front terrorist organization, which is on the Security Council list of terrorist organizations as the branch of the Al-Qaida organization in Syria, and also protecting entities and individuals associated with the Nusrah Front. Such conduct on the part France is in line with its policy of spearheading efforts to provide all types of assistance to terrorist groups in Syria, at the forefront of which is the Nusrah Front and associated terrorist groups. That policy has been in place since the start of the Syrian crisis. The media have audio and video proof that the French Government funds the Nusrah Front and that French Governments have promoted this shameful policy in international forums.

The above-mentioned letter of the Permanent Representative of France proves beyond a doubt that the French Government lacks the political will to change its approach, which is in line with the approach adopted by previous French Governments of supporting terrorism and protecting terrorist organizations. That approach has tarnished the reputation of France in the region and around the world, and put it in the company of States that proffer the lives and dignity of Syrians in exchange for a handful of petrodollars and a few barrels of oil.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that it rejects the hostile positions of France, which seeks to exert additional political pressure on Syria and aggressively threaten its sovereignty. It also reiterates that France is not qualified to play any role whatsoever in bring peace to Syria or to comment on internal Syrian affairs while it supports terrorism and its hands are dripping with the blood of the Syrian people.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the Security Council to put a halt to French practices, which undermine the credibility of the Council and violate its resolutions, flout the Charter of the United Nations and provide the terrorists with a voice, representation and protection in the Council. Moreover, by engaging in these practices, France is shirking its role as a permanent member of the Security Council.

Please recycle

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/156

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2018

Original: English

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2014 (2011), 2051 (2012), 2140 (2014), 2201 (2015), 2204 (2015), 2216 (2015), 2266 (2016), and 2342 (2017) and the statements of its President dated 15 February 2013 (S/PRST/2013/3), 29 August 2014 (S/PRST/2014/18), 22 March 2015 (S/PRST/2015/8) and 25 April 2016 (S/PRST/2016/5), and 15 June 2017 (S/PRST/2017/7) concerning Yemen,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen,

Expressing concern at the ongoing political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges in Yemen, including the ongoing violence, and threats arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of weapons,

Reiterating its call for all parties in Yemen to adhere to resolving their differences through dialogue and consultation, reject acts of violence to achieve political goals, and refrain from provocation,

Reaffirming the need for all parties to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable,

Expressing their continued support for the UN-led political process and urging the parties to resume consultations immediately without preconditions and in good faith with the United Nations Special Envoy,

Expressing its grave concern that areas of Yemen are under the control of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and about the negative impact of their presence, violent extremist ideology, and actions, on stability in Yemen and the region, including the devastating humanitarian impact on civilian populations; further expressing concern at the increasing presence and future potential growth of the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) affiliates in Yemen and reaffirming its resolve to address all aspects of the threat posed by AQAP, ISIL (Da'esh), and all other associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities,

Recalling the listing of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and associated individuals on the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List and stressing in this regard the need for robust implementation of the measures in paragraph 1 of resolution 2368 (2017) as a significant tool in combating terrorist activity in Yemen,

Please recycle

Taking note with particular concern that, as reported by the Panel of Experts, weapons of Iranian origin were introduced into Yemen after the imposition of the targeted arms embargo, and that the Islamic Republic of Iran is in non-compliance with paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) by failing to take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale, or transfer of three types of prohibited items to designated persons or entities, including "extended-range" short-range ballistic missiles (ER-SRBM), ER-SRBM related military equipment, and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology that can be considered military equipment,

Condemning in the strongest terms the ballistic missile attacks by the Houthis against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with particular concern for the 22 July 2017 attack on an oil refinery in Yanbu province, and the 4 November 2017 and 19 December 2017 attacks on Riyadh which struck near civilian areas, as well as Houthi claims of missile attacks launched against the United Arab Emirates, and *expressing* grave alarm at the stated intention of the Houthis to continue these attacks against Saudi Arabia, as well as to launch additional attacks against other states in the region, and *demanding* that they cease immediately,

Noting the critical importance of effective implementation of the sanctions regime imposed pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) and resolution 2216 (2015), including the key role that Member States from the region can play in this regard, and encouraging efforts to further enhance cooperation,

Recalling the provisions of paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) imposing a targeted arms embargo,

Deeply concerned by the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation, and all hindrances to access for the effective delivery of humanitarian and commercial supplies, including food, fuel and medical supplies, to the populations of all affected governorates,

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring continued full, safe and unfettered access for humanitarian actors and humanitarian and commercial cargo through all of Yemen's ports, airports and border crossings, including Hodeida and Saleef port, as a critical lifelines, and recognising that humanitarian and commercial commodities entering the country prior to November 2017 were not sufficient to the meet the needs of the Yemeni people, and therefore need to be increased beyond the pre-November level,

Condemning the use of sea mines as well as missiles and water-borne improvised explosive devices (WBIEDs) in a manner that represents a threat to commercial shipping and sea lines of communication in the Red Sea,

Emphasizing the necessity of discussion by the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 2140 (2014) ("the Committee"), of the recommendations contained in the Panel of Experts reports,

Determining that the situation in Yemen continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for the full and timely implementation of the political transition following the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, in line with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and Implementation Mechanism, and in accordance with resolutions 2014 (2011), 2051 (2012), 2140 (2014), 2201 (2015), 2204 (2015) 2216 (2015), and 2266 (2016) and with regard to the expectations of the Yemeni people;

2. *Calls* on all parties to comply with international humanitarian law and human rights law, as applicable, and to cease all attacks directed at civilians and civilians objects, and take all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects, to respect and protect medical facilities and personnel, and to end the recruitment and use of children in violation of international law, in order to prevent further suffering of civilians;

3. *Decides* to renew until 26 February 2019 the measures imposed by paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014), *reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 12, 13, 14 and 16 of resolution 2140 (2015), and further *reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 14 to 17 of resolution 2216 (2015);

4. *Underlines* its support for the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM), which facilitates commercial shipping to Yemen and *calls* for additional capacities and resources;

Designation Criteria

5. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) shall apply to individuals or entities designated by the Committee, or listed in the annex to resolution 2216 (2015) as engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Yemen;

6. *Reaffirms* that the designation criteria set out in paragraph 17 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 19 of resolution 2216 (2015) may include any activity related to the use of ballistic missiles in Yemen, including launches using ballistic missile technology or the direct or indirect provision or transfer to designated persons or entities of:

(a) Goods and technology as set out in S/2015/546;

(b) Sea mines and water-borne improvised explosive devices (WBIEDs);

(c) Land-based anti-tank guided missiles;

(d) Technical expertise relating to the construction, development, upgrading or employment of ballistic missiles; or

(e) Components used for the manufacture of military equipment to designated persons or entities;

7. *Reaffirms* paragraph 18 of resolution 2140 (2014), and *underscores* that acts that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Yemen may also include:

(a) Acting on behalf of, or at the direction of, a designated individual or entity, or acting on behalf of, or at the direction of, an entity owned or controlled by a designated individual or entity;

(b) Providing financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to, a designated individual or entity;

Reporting

8. *Decides* to extend until 28 March 2019 the mandate of the Panel of Experts as set out in paragraph 21 of resolution 2140 (2014), and paragraph 21 of resolution 2216 (2015), *expresses* its intention to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding the further extension no later than 28 February 2019, and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures as expeditiously as possible to re-establish the Panel of Experts, in consultation with the Committee until

28 March 2019 drawing, as appropriate, on the expertise of the members of the Panel established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014);

9. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide a midterm update to the Committee no later than 28 July 2018, and a final report no later than 28 January 2019 to the Security Council, after discussion with the Committee;

10. *Directs* the Panel to cooperate with other relevant expert groups established by the Security Council to support the work of its Sanctions Committees, in particular the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established by resolution 1526 (2004) and extended by resolution 2253 (2015);

11. *Urges* all parties and all Member States, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations to ensure cooperation with the Panel of Experts and further *urges* all Member States involved to ensure the safety of the members of the Panel of Experts and unhindered access, in particular to persons, documents and sites, in order for the Panel of Experts to execute its mandate;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of holding consultations with concerned Member States, as may be necessary, in order to ensure full implementation of the measures set forth in this resolution;

13. *Calls* upon all Member States which have not already done so to report to the Committee as soon as possible on the steps they have taken with a view to implementing effectively the measures imposed by paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) and recalls in this regard that Member States undertaking cargo inspections pursuant to paragraph 15 of resolution 2216 (2015) are required to submit written reports to the Committee as set out in paragraph 17 of resolution 2216 (2015);

14. *Recalls* the Informal Working Group on General issues of Sanctions report (S/2006/997) on best practices and methods, including paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 that discuss possible steps for clarifying methodological standards for monitoring mechanisms;

15. *Reaffirms* its intention to keep the situation in Yemen under continuous review and its readiness to review the appropriateness of the measures contained in this resolution, including the strengthening, modification, suspension or lifting of the measures, as may be needed at any time in light of developments;

16. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2018/157

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2018

Original: English

Russian Federation: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2014 (2011), 2051 (2012), 2140 (2014), 2201 (2015), 2204 (2015), 2216 (2015), 2266 (2016), and 2342 (2017) and the statements of its President dated 15 February 2013 (S/PRST/2013/3), 29 August 2014 (S/PRST/2014/18), 22 March 2015 (S/PRST/2015/8) and 25 April 2016 (S/PRST/2016/5), and 15 June 2017 (S/PRST/2017/7) concerning Yemen,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen,

Expressing concern at the ongoing political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges in Yemen, including the ongoing violence, and threats arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of weapons,

Reiterating its call for all parties in Yemen to adhere to resolving their differences through dialogue and consultation, reject acts of violence to achieve political goals, and refrain from provocation,

Reaffirming the need for all parties to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law as applicable,

Expressing its support for and commitment to the work of the Special Envoy for Yemen to the Secretary-General in support of the Yemeni transition process,

Expressing its grave concern that areas of Yemen are under the control of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and about the negative impact of their presence, violent extremist ideology and actions on stability in Yemen and the region, including the devastating humanitarian impact on the civilian populations, *expressing* concern at the increasing presence and future potential growth of the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) affiliates in Yemen and *reaffirming its resolve* to address all aspects of the threat posed by AQAP, ISIL (Da'esh), and all other associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities,

Recalling the listing of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and associated individuals on the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List and stressing in this regard the need for robust implementation of the measures in paragraph 2 of resolution 2253 (2015) as a significant tool in combating terrorist activity in Yemen,

Noting the critical importance of effective implementation of the sanctions regime imposed pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) and resolution 2216 (2015),

including the key role that Member States from the region can play in this regard, and encouraging *efforts* to further enhance cooperation,

Recalling the provisions of paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) imposing a targeted arms embargo,

Gravely distressed by the continued deterioration of the devastating humanitarian situation in Yemen, *expressing serious concern* at all instances of hindrances to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, including limitations on the delivery of vital goods to the civilian population of Yemen,

Emphasizing the necessity of discussion by the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 2140 (2014) ("the Committee"), of the recommendations contained in the Panel of Experts reports,

Determining that the situation in Yemen continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for the full and timely implementation of the political transition following the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, in line with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and Implementation Mechanism, and in accordance with resolutions 2014 (2011), 2051 (2012), 2140 (2014), 2201 (2015), 2204 (2015) 2216 (2015), and 2266 (2016) and with regard to the expectations of the Yemeni people;

2. *Decides* to renew until 26 February 2019 the measures imposed by paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014), *reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 12, 13, 14 and 16 of resolution 2140 (2015), and *further reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 14 to 17 of resolution 2216 (2015);

Designation Criteria

3. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) shall apply to individuals or entities designated by the Committee, or listed in the annex to resolution 2216 (2015) as engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Yemen;

4. *Reaffirms* the designation criteria set out in paragraph 17 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 19 of resolution 2216 (2015);

Reporting

5. *Decides* to extend until 28 March 2019 the mandate of the Panel of Experts as set out in paragraph 21 of resolution 2140 (2014), and paragraph 21 of resolution 2216 (2015), *expresses its intention* to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding the further extension no later than 28 February 2019, and *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures as expeditiously as possible to re-establish the Panel of Experts, in consultation with the Committee until 28 March 2019 drawing, as appropriate, on the expertise of the members of the Panel established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014);

6. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide a midterm update to the Committee no later than 28 July 2018, and a final report no later than 28 January 2019 to the Security Council, after discussion with the Committee;

7. *Directs* the Panel to cooperate with other relevant expert groups established by the Security Council to support the work of its Sanctions Committees,

in particular the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established by resolution 1526 (2004) and extended by resolution 2253 (2015);

8. *Urges* all parties and all Member States, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations to ensure cooperation with the Panel of Experts and *further urges* all Member States involved to ensure the safety of the members of the Panel of Experts and unhindered access, in particular to persons, documents and sites, in order for the Panel of Experts to execute its mandate;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of holding consultations with concerned Member States, as may be necessary, in order to ensure full implementation of the measures set forth in this resolution;

10. *Calls upon* all Member States which have not already done so to report to the Committee as soon as possible on the steps they have taken with a view to implementing effectively the measures imposed by paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) and *recalls* in this regard that Member States undertaking cargo inspections pursuant to paragraph 15 of resolution 2216 (2015) are required to submit written reports to the Committee as set out in paragraph 17 of resolution 2216 (2015);

11. *Recalls* the Informal Working Group on General issues of Sanctions report (S/2006/997) on best practices and methods, including paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 that discuss possible steps for clarifying methodological standards for monitoring mechanisms;

12. *Reaffirms* its intention to keep the situation in Yemen under continuous review and its readiness to review the appropriateness of the measures contained in this resolution, including the strengthening, modification, suspension or lifting of the measures, as may be needed at any time in light of developments;

13. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations A/72/769–S/2018/158

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 35
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 24 February 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit herewith a statement, dated 23 February 2018, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the death of Archil Tatunashvili, a citizen of Georgia who was detained by the Russian occupation regime (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elene **Agladze**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

18-03163 (E) 020318

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 24 February 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the death of Archil Tatunashvili, a citizen of Georgia detained by the Russian occupation regime

23 February 2018

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses deep sorrow over the death of citizen of Georgia Archil Tatunashvili in Tskhinvali detained by Russian occupation regime on February 22, 2018 and expresses condolences to his family.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns the death of Archil Tatunashvili followed after unlawful activities of the occupation regime and according to the existing information, the detention of two more Georgian citizens Levan Kutashvili and Ioseb Pavliashvili.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia appeals to the Co-chairs of the Geneva International Discussions to make due and timely reaction, with the aim to determine the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Tatunashvili, immediately release detainees and give appropriate reaction to this grave fact, for which the Russian Federation is directly responsible, as a force exercising full control on the ground.

Such illegal actions by the occupation regime, victims of which become Georgian citizens, reveals the necessity of immediate creation of international security and human right mechanisms on the ground.

Intensified illegal provocative steps by the Russian Federation, including eradication of barbed-wire fences and other artificial barriers along the occupation line, restriction of freedom of movement and detentions, human rights violations and ethnic discrimination further complicates severe security and humanitarian situation on the ground, deliberately hinders the process of peaceful conflict resolution presents a source of instability and a threat to Georgia as well as the whole region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia appeals to the international community to give due assessment to the tragic incident as well as actions taken by the Russian occupation regime and give a proper reaction.

http://mfa.gov.ge/News/saqartvelos-sagareo-saqmeta-saministros-ganck-(26).aspx?CatID=5&lang=en-US

United Nations S/2018/159

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 March 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 26 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 21–26 February 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

18-03352 (E) 050318 090318

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 26 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (21 February 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 17 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 11 in Damascus, 5 in Ladhiqiyah and 1 in Homs.

The Turkish representative office has reported eight incidents of gunfire: seven in Damascus Governorate and one in Hama Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out two humanitarian operations in Ayn Shiqaq, Ladhiqiyah Governorate, and Khatyn, Aleppo Governorate. Food with a total weight of 2.3 tons was delivered to the local population.

In total, 1,757 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,460.9 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 211 persons.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 71,184 persons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, a ceasefire agreement has been signed with Qasabiyah, Uraynibah and Sutuh al-Dayr in Idlib Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,367.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (22 February 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 22 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 11 in Damascus, 5 in Ladhiqiyah, 3 in Aleppo, 2 in Homs and 1 in Dar'a.

The Turkish representative office has reported 17 incidents of gunfire in Damascus Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the Nusrah Front terrorist group.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,757 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,460.9 tons.

Two United Nations humanitarian convoys were dispatched to Khajmi and Tayyibah, Dar'a Governorate, to deliver cargo with a total weight of 123 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 74 persons.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 71,258 persons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, a ceasefire agreement has been signed with Tall al-Khatib in Aleppo Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,368.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (23 February 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 14 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 7 in Damascus, 5 in Ladhiqiyah and 2 in Aleppo.

The Turkish representative office has reported five incidents of gunfire in Damascus Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Kafr Ram in Homs Governorate. Food with a total weight of 1.5 tons was delivered to the local population.

In total, 1,758 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,462.4 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 123 persons.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 71,396 persons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,368.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (24 February 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 15 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 10 in Damascus, 3 in Ladhiqiyah, 1 in Aleppo and 1 in Suwayda'.

The Turkish representative office has reported nine incidents of gunfire in Damascus Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters belonging to terrorist groups.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,758 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,462.4 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 78 persons.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 71,474 persons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, a ceasefire agreement has been signed with Rujaylah in Aleppo Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,369.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (25 February 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 18 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 12 in Damascus, 4 in Ladhiqiyah and 2 in Aleppo.

The Turkish representative office has reported four incidents of gunfire: three in Damascus Governorate and one in Idlib Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters belonging to terrorist groups.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,758 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,462.4 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 72 persons.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 71,546 persons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, 17 ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas in Homa Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,386.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (26 February 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 16 incidents of gunfire.

The Turkish representative office has reported four incidents of gunfire in Damascus Governorate.

Most of the incidents of mortars and small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters belonging to terrorist groups.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in a populated area in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate. Food with a total weight of 1.9 tons was delivered to the local population.

In total, 1,759 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,464.3 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 65 persons.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 71,611 persons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, ten ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas in Hama Governorate and Idlib Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,396.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/160

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2018

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Noting with regret the resignation of Judge Hisashi Owada, to take effect on 7 June 2018,

Noting further that a vacancy in the International Court of Justice for the remainder of the term of office of Judge Hisashi Owada will thus occur and must be filled in accordance with the terms of the Statute of the Court,

Noting that, in accordance with article 14 of the Statute, the date of the election to fill the vacancy shall be fixed by the Security Council,

Decides that the election to fill the vacancy shall take place on 22 June 2018 at a meeting of the Security Council and at a meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session.

18-03143 (E) 010318

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United Nations S/2018/161

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2018

Original: English

Identical letters dated 27 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Following the numerous previous letters that I have addressed to you regarding the repeated and continuing terrorist attacks by armed terrorist groups on the city of Damascus and its suburbs, and upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit herewith a table clarifying the number of civilians killed and injured as a result of rocket-propelled grenades and mortar shells launched by armed terrorist groups against safe neighbourhoods in Damascus during the period from 21 to 26 February 2018. These terrorist attacks have killed and wounded many civilians, mostly women and children, as well as causing serious damage to public and private property and infrastructure.

Date	*Number of rocket-propelled grenades and mortar shells launched*	*Number of civilians killed*	*Number of civilians injured*
21 February 2018	44	–	22
22 February 2018	60	3	35
23 February 2018	103	1	49
24 February 2018	75	1	17
25 February 2018	21	–	1
26 February 2018	75	–	2
Total	**378**	**5**	**126**

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-03412 (E) 070318

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United Nations S/2018/162

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 March 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 27 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the forty-eighth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (S/2018/138).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates the concerns that it raised in its responses to previous reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the aforementioned Security Council resolutions. After reviewing the report under consideration, the Syrian Government is now more firmly convinced that the authors do not meet the minimum standards for competence and professionalism. Indeed, the are blatantly biased to the agendas of the Western States, which have strived to use these reports and the humanitarian situation in Syria as a means of tarnishing the image of the Syrian Government. The Government stresses that no report can have any legal meaning or value if it is not consistent with humanitarian principles and the principles of respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and the provision of humanitarian support for all needy Syrians, without politicization or selectivity.

Following are some observations from the Syrian Government on the report under consideration.

- The Syrian Government reiterates its longstanding commitment to the principles of international law and international humanitarian law, as well as its commitment to domestic laws and the Syrian Constitution, all of which provide that the Syrian Government is responsible for ensuring the security and safety of Syrian citizens and restoring security and stability to their country. The Government notes that it continues to carry out its responsibilities and provide support and basic services to Syrians, regardless of their affiliations, and to all regions of Syria. This is an established fact that cannot be denied by the failure of the report's authors to mention it in their report.
- The Syrian Government rejects the politicized manner in which the report is written. The authors repeatedly assail and criticize the Government and cite the same uncorroborated information more than once in the report.
- The Government rejects the inclusion in the report of false information and inaccurate statistics from sources that are unreliable and egregiously politicized.

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These include the reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which are fundamentally based on false testimony provided and allegations made by members of armed terrorist groups and their families, and the testimony of the members of the "White Helmets" terrorist organization. On the other hand, the report is shamefully silent with regard to the horrific destruction and human and material losses caused by the operations of the so-called international coalition and its allied militias in Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr.

- The Syrian Government is disappointed at the authors efforts to divert the attention of the international community from the reality that the decision of certain donor States and entities to deliberately reduce funding for the humanitarian response in Syria has had catastrophic consequences. What is more, those States and entities have made their support contingent on political conditions that are inconsistent with the principles of humanitarian work. Yet the authors chose merely to make a brief mention in paragraph 33 of this important matter and the severe effects that it has had on the lives and livelihoods of Syrians and the assistance they receive.

- The Government stresses that the recent escalation of the situation in eastern Ghutah occurred because the terrorist groups positioned in that area have been attacking residential areas and military checkpoints. They have launched more than 2,180 missiles and mortar shells at the city of Damascus, killing at least 66 civilians and injuring 474 others. Government forces have had to respond to those acts of aggression because they have a constitutional duty to ensure the safety and security of civilians. Syrian Government is surprised that the authors have continued their practice of focusing on specific parts of the country, as evidenced by the excessive attention they give to the situation in eastern Ghutah. Meanwhile, they ignore the difficult humanitarian situation in other parts of Syria, such as Fu'ah and Kafraya, that are besieged by armed terrorist groups, and in areas that are hosting displaced persons and in other part of the country. The authors also act as if the city of Raqqah and other Syrian cities that have been destroyed by the United States-led "international coalition" do not exist.

- Regrettably, the authors have persisted in using the term "besieged locations" when referring to the situation in eastern Ghutah in Rif Dimashq. At the same time, under pressure from both influential States that are members of the Security Council and those that are not, they have persistently and wilfully ignored the plight of the people of eastern Ghutah, who are besieged from within by an assortment of armed terrorist groups that are exploiting civilians and using them as human shields. Those groups have seized and monopolized humanitarian assistance, which they hand out to their supporters or sell at exorbitant prices to people in need, as also happened in the neighbourhoods of eastern Aleppo.

- It is unfortunate that the authors have ignored the plight of the thousands of abductees who are being held in the prisons of eastern Ghutah and other areas where terrorist groups are present. Those abductees include women, children and elderly persons who were taken from their homes and places of work and subjected to the worst forms of torture. The authors fail to press for those people to be evacuated, so that they can receive the medical attention they need.

- The Syrian Government emphasizes that the claims made by the authors, like those made by the Western States that have influence over them, that the Government is besieging Ghutah have been consistently refuted. Those claims were most recently refuted by reports that spoke of the Saudi Arabian regime providing "aid" to eastern Ghutah in February. This proves, first, that eastern

Ghutah is not besieged and, second, that it can be reached, as evidenced by the fact that there has been no decline in the amount of supplies, arms and ammunition that are delivered by Governments that support terrorism to the armed terrorist groups in Ghutah. In fact, the support that those armed terrorist groups receive has increased. The Syrian Government reaffirms that the provision of the above-mentioned aid by the Saudi Arabian regime violates the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2393 (2017), in which the Council stressed the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to inform the Government of the nature of the assistance that is brought in from outside the country. Moreover, as on previous occasions, the so-called aid that Saudi Arabia provided is in fact a means of delivering direct support to the members of the armed terrorist groups, because that "aid" included weapons and the munitions, missiles and mortar shells that the terrorist in eastern Ghutah have been firing at Damascus.

- The Syrian Government finds it deplorable that the authors, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, OCHA and others have failed to note and highlight the effects of the barbaric Turkish attack against the Syrian city of Afrin. The Turkish attack has caused a large number of deaths and injuries, particularly among children and women, damaged public and private property, displaced a large number of the city's inhabitants and brought about a severe shortage of humanitarian necessities. In that connection, the approach adopted by the authors and their bias towards the Turkish regime provide further evidence that they are unprofessional and incapable of assessing the humanitarian reality of the situation in Syria in an objective and unpoliticized manner, as evidenced by their reference in paragraph 8 to "allegations" of civilian deaths and injuries, as well as of displacement. That approach also serves as evidence that humanitarian access is not what is preventing the United Nations from providing assistance in Syria. Rather, the obstacle is that the United Nations does not have a management that is endowed with the professionalism and objectivity required to address the humanitarian situation in Syria.

- In its barbaric attack on Afrin, the Turkish army targeted humanitarian convoys that were delivering aid to the city's residents. The Syrian Government condemns that action by the Turkish Government, which also prevented the International Committee of the Red Cross from dispatching, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, aid convoys to Afrin by refusing to guarantee that neither armed fighters affiliated with Turkey nor the Turkish army itself would not attack the convoy.

- The report states that the United Nations has successfully delivered humanitarian assistance to millions of people in need in Syria. The Syrian Government reiterates that this would not have happened were it not for the facilitation of the Syrian State and its institutions. That facilitation is recognized in paragraph 22 of the report, which states that the Syrian Government provided the facilitation required by United Nations agencies. That statement refutes all of accusations that the authors attempted to level against Syria in their report, with a view to accusing the Syrian Government of being remiss and impeding access.

- In the report under consideration, the authors continue to commit the glaring legal error of referring to the armed terrorist groups in Syria as the "non-State armed opposition", something for which they bear full responsibility politically and morally, and under international law. The Syrian Government forces' operations in the Hamah countryside and Idlib are aimed at the camps of the

terrorist groups Nusrah Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the militias and other entities that fight alongside them.

- The officials in charge of OCHA have been unable to maintain the standards of transparency and provide the guarantees necessary to reassure the international community that cross-border assistance is going to the rightful beneficiaries, rather than to the armed groups. In that connection, the Syrian Government is disappointed that the Secretariat has failed to respond to the Government's request for clarification of the vague ideas that appeared in previous reports of the Secretariat, and which the authors of the report under consideration reiterate in its paragraph 31, concerning so-called partners and independent third-party companies that have been contracted to verify that assistance is reaching storage facilities and recipients. Such ideas and references are unacceptable. No United Nations official has ever discussed them with the Syrian Government, which is the primary party concerned. They also flagrantly contravene Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), and those who propagated and implemented those ideas bear full responsibility at the international level. The Syrian Government once again demands that the United Nations should supply it with the names and records of the parties that are supposed to be acting as United Nations partners. It also looks forward to receiving the information and clarification that the Secretariat was requested to provide pursuant to Security Council resolution 2393 (2017).

- The Syrian Government categorically rejects the continued silence of the authors with regard to the catastrophic consequences of operations carried out by the so-called international coalition and its members. That coalition has killed hundreds of civilians and Syrian forces that are combating ISIL and caused enormous destruction in Raqqah city. The Government rejects, in particular, the authors' continued silence with regard to the environmental damage that has been caused by the coalition's use of internationally prohibited weapons against civilians in Syria, as well as their silence in respect of the coalition's other violations of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights, which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Syrian Government again calls for the immediate dissolution of that illegitimate coalition and an end to its crimes against Syrians.

- It is unfortunate that the authors of the report, notwithstanding frequent calls from the Syrian Government and members of the Security Council, are still failing to reflect the economic and humanitarian suffering caused by the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on Syria by the United States of America, the European Union and other States. Those measures have had numerous adverse consequences, especially in the health sector, affecting even the activities of United Nations agencies and foreign non-governmental organizations operating in Syria, and have led to the suspension of many vital projects aimed at responding to the needs of Syrians.

- The Syrian Government reiterates that that United Nations officials working in Syria should have nothing to do with any illegal militias, separatist entities, illegal "local councils" or unlicensed civil associations. The restrictions placed on the United Nations in Hasakah governorate are in line with the agendas of the separatist militias that are present in certain parts of that governorate. Those militias have placed conditions on the provision of assistance by the United Nations in that governorate. On the other hand, official Syrian agencies have given the United Nations all assistance possible.

- The Syrian Government reaffirms that the residents of Rukban camp are suffering because the United States is occupying Syrian territory and, along with

its proxy militias, preventing the State from regaining control of that area. The Government calls for an end to the American presence in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and for the Americans to halt the crimes that they are committing in Syrian territory.

- The reference in paragraph 7 of the report to an attack against a Médecins Sans Frontières hospital in Saraqib, Idlib governorate, is nonsense. There is no such hospital. Moreover, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has not authorized that organization to operate or establish hospitals in Syria, nor has it granted entry visas to the organization's personnel. The organization's personnel have therefore entered Syria illegally, just like the members of armed terrorist groups and foreign terrorist fighters. It is also futile to speak of what that organization or any other calls a "hospital" or "health centre" of which the relevant Government authorities are not aware or the establishment of which they have not authorized.

- The Syrian Government reiterates that it has warned the United Nations and the international community that armed terrorist groups, particularly those deployed in eastern Ghutah, are making preparations to use chemical weapons and then accuse the Syrian Government of having used them. The Government reaffirms that it does not possess such weapons and that it has not and will not use any such weapon.

- The Syrian Government notes that the number of international non-governmental organizations authorized to work in Syria now stands at 27, not 23 as stated in the report.

- The Syrian Government reaffirms its position concerning the International Criminal Court and the calls made for the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic to be referred to that Court. It stresses that the jurisdiction of the Court does not apply to the situation in Syria and, moreover, that the Court has lost all credibility and has been transformed into a political tool used by certain parties to attack specific States for sordid political ends that have nothing to do with the requirements of justice. The Syrian Government also reiterates what it stated in its letter to the Secretary-General regarding the serious legal flaws in the resolution on the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (A/71/799).

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its long-standing position that the crisis in Syria requires a political solution based on intra-Syrian dialogue under Syrian leadership without foreign intervention and without preconditions. We remind you that the success of the political process and any significant improvement in the humanitarian situation will depend, above all, on creating a climate conducive to a serious and non-politicized international and regional commitment to fighting terrorism.

- The Syrian Government stresses that such reports must focus on the humanitarian situation in Syria and should not address in any way the question of the political solution.

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Security Council to compel the States that support and finance armed terrorist groups to stop providing any support or financing to such groups, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism and the financing thereof, in particular resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015). Compliance with and implementation of those

resolutions is the key to resolving the situation in Syria and delivering humanitarian assistance to those in need in Syria.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/163

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2018

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 15 November 2017 to 16 February 2018)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2392 (2017), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 15 March 2018, and in accordance with prior resolutions in which the Council requested me to report on the implementation of the mandate every 90 days. It covers political and security developments from 15 November 2017 to 16 February 2018, the humanitarian situation, and progress in the implementation of the Mission mandate. It also provides a review of progress made by the parties in ceasing hostilities, returning to the path of dialogue and achieving inclusiveness within the Government.

II. Political and economic developments

2. The period under review saw the revival of the political process with the holding of two sessions of the high-level revitalization forum of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access. Meanwhile, inside South Sudan, the national dialogue that the Government launched in May 2017 has continued with further grass-roots consultations. The economy has remained stagnant, with few signs of the improvements in the public and private sectors that are needed to ease the chronic poverty and hardship that affect the majority of the South Sudanese population.

Peace agreement revitalization forum

3. On 28 November, the IGAD Council of Ministers issued a communiqué in the run-up to the first session of the IGAD revitalization forum, in which it endorsed the report of the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan, Ismail Wais, on his pre-forum consultations with South Sudanese stakeholders. The report of the IGAD Special Envoy summarized potential options to address contentious issues, such as transitional government arrangements, state administrative restructuring and the legislature. On 17 December, the Government restated its view that the forum should not be a renegotiation of the 2015 peace agreement. In a press release issued on 18 December, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in Opposition repeated its view that the peace agreement had collapsed following the events in Juba in July 2016.

18-02688 (E) 010318

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4. On 18 December, the IGAD Council of Ministers opened the forum, urging the parties to commit to immediately silencing the guns through agreement on a cessation of hostilities. From 18 to 21 December in Addis Ababa, IGAD convened the first phase of the high-level forum on the revitalization of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan of August 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the peace agreement). On 21 December, 14 parties signed the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access, with representatives of South Sudanese stakeholders, IGAD and the African Union signing as guarantors and the IGAD mediators and international partners as witnesses. The signatory parties included the Transitional Government of National Unity, SPLM/A in Opposition, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) "Former Detainees", the National Salvation Front and 10 other opposition movements and parties.

5. Since the new cessation of hostilities agreement came into force on 24 December, it has been subject to a number of verified and claimed violations. On 15 January, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism reported to the IGAD Council of Ministers and the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission that Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces south of Mundri had violated the agreement by way of actions carried out between 22 December 2017 and 8 January 2018, and that pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces had violated the agreement by way of actions carried out in Koch on 24 December. Reports of alleged violations have continued up to the time of reporting, indicating that key parties are not fulfilling their commitments under the agreement. Meanwhile, the parties themselves have made claims and counterclaims of alleged violations, adding further pressure on the Mechanism's monitoring and verification teams to verify reported violations.

6. On 12 January, the Chair of the African Union Commission and I issued a joint statement condemning violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement and voicing our firm view that there must be consequences for parties violating the agreement. The troika of Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America similarly issued a statement on 12 January condemning the continuing pattern of violations and stating their readiness to hold those responsible to account and to impose measures on those who violated the agreement. On 25 January, the IGAD Council of Ministers requested all parties to investigate and report within one month on violations and cases of sexual and gender-based violence and recruitment and use of children, and to identify the individuals responsible. Concern about the issue was echoed in statements by the European Union and the troika on 26 and 29 January, respectively. On 27 January, the African Union, IGAD and the United Nations jointly condemned and called for accountability for violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement and rejected threats directed towards the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism. On the same day, the IGAD Council of Ministers issued a communiqué in which it endorsed the Mechanism's verified violation reports and reaffirmed its commitment to take appropriate action, including targeted sanctions, against those violating the agreement.

7. The second session of the forum began in Addis Ababa on 5 February, with participation from all South Sudanese parties and stakeholder groups. Discussions were focused on measures to revitalize chapter I (on the Transitional Government of National Unity) and chapter II (on the permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements) of the peace agreement. The second session of the forum concluded on 16 February with limited progress towards achieving the objectives set out by the IGAD mediation and with no date agreed for the next phase. However, the South Sudanese parties issued statements reiterating their commitment to the process and

initialled the revised articles in chapters I and II, on which they had reached consensus. Prior to the start of the forum, a coalition of 44 women's organizations called for a comprehensive increase in women's participation in peace processes and governance and security leadership positions in South Sudan.

National political developments

8. Notwithstanding the ongoing revitalization efforts, progress in implementing the 2015 peace agreement has been limited. In a position paper submitted to IGAD on 17 December, the Government stated that implementation of the peace agreement was "in progress" and that shortcomings in timely implementation were mainly "due to lack of funding". On 13 January, the National Constitutional Amendment Committee reported that it was considering submissions from political parties and others on two political parties and election bills. The draft bill outlining amendments required to align the 2011 Transitional Constitution with the peace agreement has yet to be tabled before the parliament for ratification.

9. The subnational phase of the national dialogue continued, including efforts to consult with the internally displaced and refugee populations. During the second half of November, consultations concluded in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal and Upper Nile, including one consultation held in a protection of civilians site. In November and December, public consultations were held with South Sudanese refugees in Kenya and Uganda. During December, subcommittees concluded consultations in Central Equatoria, the Abyei Administrative Area and Western Bahr el-Ghazal. Subcommittees began consultations in Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, Pibor and Western Equatoria in December and in Warrap in early January. Consultations in Juba continued in November and December with civil society, youth groups, community elders, religious leaders, academics and parliamentarians.

10. In general, many of the subcommittee consultations appear to have been relatively open with broadly representative local participation. However, political, financial, logistical and access constraints have limited the reach of the consultations to largely Government-controlled locations. On 18 January, the national dialogue secretariat convened a round-table event in Juba on the subject of freedom of expression, access to information and the creation of an environment conducive to dialogue.

11. From 14 to 16 November, a meeting of the SPLM in Government and the SPLM "Former Detainees" was held in Cairo under the sponsorship of the Presidents of Egypt and Uganda. The meeting produced a new declaration on reunification of SPLM, and a further meeting held in Entebbe, Uganda, produced, on 15 December, an implementation plan for reunification. A reunification agreement for SPLM was first signed in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in January 2015.

12. In late January and mid-February 2018, the President, Salva Kiir, dismissed and appointed new Governors in Terekeka, Eastern Lakes, Latjoor, Boma, Yei River and Tonj, bringing the number of Governors replaced to more than 14 since the issuance of the presidential decree of 14 January 2017 establishing a 32-state system. On 16 February, the President decreed the reshuffle of the Governors of Yei River and Tonj. In late January and early February, the President also appointed new Deputy Ministers of Labour and of Information. On 19 January, the pro-Machar Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition appointed new Governors for Central Equatoria and Wau.

13. On 2 February, the United States Department of State announced restrictions on the export of defence articles and defence services to South Sudan. Protests in favour of and against the arms embargo were organized across the country. Also on 2 February, the European Union added the former Chief of General Staff of SPLA,

Paul Malong, the former Assistant Chief of Defence Forces of SPLA, Malek Reuben Riak, and Minister of Information and Government spokesperson, Michael Makuei Leuth, to the list of individuals subject to a travel ban and an asset freeze.

Economic developments

14. The economy has remained stagnant, with few signs of stabilization and little prospect of sustained recovery. The depreciation of the South Sudanese pound has continued; its value against the United States dollar fell from an average of around 175 pounds per dollar in November to 230 pounds per dollar in February. Consumer price inflation slowed slightly, but was still estimated to have been at 118 per cent in 2017, according to the South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics. As a consequence, the public have faced large rises in the prices of commodities, public transport and services.

III. Security situation

15. Violent clashes involving SPLA, SPLA in Opposition and other armed groups continued to occur across the country. As in previous reporting periods, incidents were particularly concentrated in parts of the greater Upper Nile and greater Equatoria regions. During December and January, violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement verified by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism were mainly of low intensity. However, violations reported in February indicated planning by the parties for further offensives and an increased intensity in the fighting. Furthermore, the parties did not comply fully with provisions of the agreement, in particular the requirements to promulgate the agreement to all their units in the field, adhere to the principles of freezing forces in place and disengaging when they are in close proximity, and inform the Mechanism of any planned military movement.

Greater Upper Nile region

16. The security situation in greater Upper Nile remained volatile, with reports of fighting between SPLA and the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition. In Jonglei, the two forces clashed on 17 and 18 November in the Wau and Mogok districts in Ayod County; SPLA remained in control of Wau and surrounding areas, while SPLA in Opposition was reportedly stationed near Mogok. SPLA allegedly attacked pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces near Yuai on 29 December and in Wunbil village near Waat on 31 December. Starting on 7 January, the First Vice-President, Taban Deng Gai, undertook a two-week visit to multiple locations in Jonglei, including Bor, Jalle, Pajok, Panyagor and Yuai, accompanied by a large security detail, with the stated purpose of raising awareness about the cessation of hostilities agreement.

17. SPLA and opposition forces continued to be in close proximity in parts of Upper Nile. Clashes broke out on 24 November in Nasir, and on 26 November an SPLA attempt to advance towards the opposition-controlled Maiwut area on the outskirts of Pagak was pushed back. Forces also exchanged heavy artillery fire in Atar on 7 December and on 17 December, when SPLA allegedly attacked a position of General Johnson Olony's Agwelek forces under the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition in Kola, Manyo County.

18. In central and southern parts of Unity, tensions continued between SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces. According to a report issued by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, on 20 November the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition took control of Rubkway, south of Bieh, and

captured the Deputy Commissioner, who remains in opposition captivity. Intermittent clashes were also reported in Leer town and Leer County, including heavy fighting on 30 November in Leer town and Thonyor, which caused some damage within the UNMISS temporary operating base in Leer. Insecurity in the Rubkona area was highlighted by an ambush carried out on a demining company contracted by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations near Kaljak on 10 December, which SPLA blamed on the opposition, who rejected the accusation. The pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition claimed that on 27 December they repelled an SPLA attack in Bieh, Koch County. Clashes were reported around Koch on 12 and 13 January, including an SPLA attack on pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces reported by a United Nations agency operating in Buaw, Koch County, on 12 January, as well as a confirmed clash on 12 January in Bol, between Koch and Rubkway. On 2 February, SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces also reportedly clashed in Buoh, Mirmir, Buaw and Koch in Koch County, and in Buaw and Rier on 10 February.

Greater Equatoria region

19. The security situation in parts of the Equatorias remained tense. On 19 November, pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces claimed to have clashed with SPLA forces advancing towards the Iyiri area of Magwe. Following SPLA clearing operations against pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces in and around Torit town, several rounds of small arms fire and two rocket-propelled grenade shells were heard on 12 December in proximity to the UNMISS base in Torit. The pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition denied involvement in the incident following claims that SPLA forces were attempting to capture opposition soldiers hiding in Torit. There were also reports that SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces clashed at the Lawaci River, between Pogee and Pajok, in Magwe County on 19 January, and in Loming on 5 February. Meanwhile, ambushes were reported on the Juba-Kapoeta, Juba-Torit, Kapoeta-Torit, Torit-Magwe and Kapoeta-Ngauro roads, resulting in several civilian casualties.

20. Southern parts of Central Equatoria remained insecure, with reports of clashes between SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces. On 14 December, a convoy of United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations was robbed at a location between Limbe and Koya, near Yei town. SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces reportedly clashed in Lasu on 17 and 18 December; SPLA reportedly took control of the centre of Lasu, while the opposition was stationed in the surrounding areas. On 24 December, SPLA forces allegedly attacked a pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition position in Lujulu near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, resulting in four civilian fatalities. On 25 December, one civilian was reportedly killed and four others were injured when SPLA forces reportedly opened fire on civilians in Yei town. There were also reports of clashes between the two forces in Bazi, Kaia and Morobo on 3 January. Community leaders in Yei claimed that on 4 January, clashes between the two forces in the Iraga area of Morobo County had led to civilian casualties. The pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition further alleged that on 9 January, SPLA forces attacked their position at Wunaleng, approximately 12 kilometres west of Juba. However, SPLA refused to confirm the incident.

21. Reports of insecurity persisted in Central Equatoria. On 22 November, South Sudan National Police Service forces were deployed to the Gudele area in Juba to disarm alleged land grabbers, resulting in the deaths of two civilians. On 25 November, armed men ambushed a civilian vehicle on the road to Yei near the UNMISS base at United Nations House in Juba. On 4 January, there were reports of attacks by armed groups on SPLA positions in Gudele and Kapuri, west of Juba, and

a shooting incident near the UNMISS protection of civilians site adjacent to United Nations House.

22. In eastern parts of Western Equatoria, intermittent clashes between SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces were reported. On 26 November, SPLA allegedly attacked opposition positions between Mundri town and Bangolo, as well as in Wiro, east of Lui, and Nywu, south-west of Mundri town, resulting in the killing of three civilians. Between 30 November and 2 December, SPLA forces allegedly launched attacks on opposition positions in Kedibo, Bangolo and Garia. However, on 1 December, the Government denied any SPLA offensive in opposition-controlled areas. SPLA clearing operations around Mundri town led to civilian displacement, while the Mundri-Bangolo, Mundri-Kedibo and Mundri-Lakamadi roads were inaccessible owing to insecurity. The Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism reported a clash on 24 December at Landigwa between SPLA and the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition, caused by SPLA movement from Bari towards Garia. On 2 January, local sources reported that a heavy SPLA deployment had been observed along the Mundri-Bangolo road.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

23. The security situation in greater Bahr el-Ghazal was also tense. In Western Bahr el-Ghazal, armed men allegedly attacked SPLA soldiers from the Bringi checkpoint on the Wau-Baggari road on 15 and 17 November. On 27 November, SPLA soldiers allegedly attacked civilians between Agok and Momoi Bomas and were subsequently arrested and detained by the National Security Service. On 17 December, fighting allegedly broke out between pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces and a joint force of the Justice and Equality Movement and SPLA near Yangusi village, south of Raja town. In another incident, two civilian vehicles were attacked by an armed group near Khor Birdi, south of Raja town, resulting in the killing of eight people.

24. In Warrap, SPLA forces started house-to-house searches as part of the civilian disarmament process. Rising insecurity between Tonj and Lakes was also reported as suspected armed men from Rumbek North raided cattle in Wunlit County. In Lakes, on 9 December, two United Nations contractor trucks were fired upon by armed men near Cueicok, Mayom Payam, in Rumbek Centre County.

Intercommunal conflict

25. Separate from the conflict between the Government and armed opposition, intercommunal tensions continued to result in substantial numbers of civilian deaths related to cattle-raiding incidents, revenge killings and disputes over land and natural resources. In Lakes, tensions between subsections of the Dinka Agar continued, with deadly clashes reported in Malek County on 6 December and subsequent counter-attacks on Cueicok, Mayom Payam, and Kabur-Williams villages on 8 December, resulting in at least 120 killed and 70 wounded. On 16 and 17 December, in Warrap, Thiik youth attacked the Jalwa in Panjak Boma, Wunlit County, resulting in at least 43 killed and 53 injured. On 27 and 28 November, in Jonglei, Murle youth attacked Duk Payuel County, resulting in approximately 40 civilians killed and over 50 women and children abducted. Following the attack, the President issued an ultimatum calling for the return of abductees and stolen cattle and summoned the local governors. On 22 December, two subgroups of the Abii community clashed near Pariak over access to grazing land, allegedly resulting in 17 killed and at least 18 injured.

IV. Humanitarian situation

26. The humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains grave. As of February 2018, the United Nations estimates that 1.8 million people are internally displaced in South Sudan, and around 2.4 million are refugees in neighbouring countries — 2 million of them having fled or left South Sudan since the eruption of conflict in December 2013. During 2017, around 700,000 people fled the country, down only slightly from the 760,000 who fled in 2016. Women and children make up approximately 85 per cent of the more than 1 million South Sudanese refugees in Uganda alone.

27. Food insecurity is widespread. Post-harvest gains in the fourth quarter of 2017 had been expected to reduce the number of people facing severe food insecurity. However, it is anticipated that an earlier than normal start of the "lean" harvest season will push the number of people classified as severely food insecure up from 4.8 million in late 2017 to 5.1 million between January and March 2018. Acute malnutrition is prevalent, particularly among children and women. An estimated 1.1 million children are acutely malnourished, including around 280,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Renk, Upper Nile, Twic, Warrap and the Greater Baggari area in Wau are currently facing extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition, while 31 counties in Lakes, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Unity, parts of Jonglei, Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria are showing critical levels.

28. Armed clashes, insecurity and access incidents continue to constrain the delivery of humanitarian aid. In 2017, 1,159 humanitarian access incidents were reported by humanitarian aid organizations in South Sudan, the highest number of incidents reported in a calendar year and a significant increase from the 908 incidents reported in 2016 and the 909 in 2015. During 2017, 54 security incidents caused the temporary relocation of 612 humanitarian staff. Despite intensive negotiations, humanitarian actors also continue to face instances of access being denied at checkpoints. Contractors transporting humanitarian aid goods have reported incidents of extortion along the 1,028-kilometre Juba-Bentiu route, along which more than 66 checkpoints have been counted. This situation has continued despite a presidential decree in November ordering the free, unimpeded and unhindered movement of aid organizations in the country.

29. Despite these challenges, humanitarian aid operations in South Sudan reached some 5.4 million people in 2017 against a target of 6.2 million people assessed to be in need of assistance. In 2017, 5.4 million people received food and livelihood assistance, 2.5 million people received emergency health kits, 2.1 million people were able to access improved water sources and 1.9 million people received humanitarian protection services. Around 900,000 people, including 160,000 children, were treated for malnutrition.

30. The $1.6 billion Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017 was 71 per cent funded as at the end of 2017. The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018 requires $1.7 billion in funding to provide assistance and protection to some 6 million people.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

A. Protection of civilians

31. UNMISS continued to use a three-tiered approach to its mandated task of protection of civilians. Under the first tier, protection through dialogue and political engagement, the Mission engaged political and other stakeholders at the highest level through the good offices of my Special Representative. In those engagements, he stressed the responsibility of the Government and parties to protect civilians, observe

the ceasefire and ensure unhindered access for UNMISS and humanitarian actors, in line with the peace agreement, the December 2017 cessation of hostilities agreement and the President's own commitment. In January, my Special Representative also met with the Minister of the Interior and leadership of the National Security Service to underscore the need for greater coordination on security around the Juba protection of civilians sites in response to recent incidents of criminality. Elsewhere, UNMISS conducted 32 subnational workshops and activities with a total of 4,051 participants (1,116 women) on subjects related to social cohesion, reconciliation and conflict management. Following a workshop facilitated by UNMISS in Bor in September 2017 to bridge hostilities between Dinka Bor youth in Bor town and Nuer youth in the Bor protection site, a follow-up "sports for peace" programme was facilitated in December. In Wau town, UNMISS facilitated a discussion between government officials and displaced persons on creating an environment conducive to the safe and voluntary return of displaced populations. UNMISS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly facilitated a pre-migration conference for Sudanese Misseriya pastoralists and Dinka Malual hosts in Aweil East to mitigate migration-related violence. UNMISS also supported a dialogue forum with communities east of Bentiu to manage intercommunal conflict related to the return of displaced persons. The Mission likewise organized three dialogue forums for communities in conflict in Apuk, Aguok, Kuac and Abiem in Gogrial to mitigate tensions. UNMISS, in collaboration with local non-governmental organizations, also organized dialogues in Yambio and Torit to promote trust between communities and the organized forces.

32. Under the second tier, protection of civilians under threat of physical violence, as at 13 February 2018 the Mission was protecting 204,247 internally displaced persons in five UNMISS protection of civilians sites. This included 114,245 in Bentiu, 38,113 in Juba, 24,417 in Malakal, 2,296 in Bor and 25,176 in Wau. A temporary protection area in Leer, southern Unity, provided refuge to 1,316 displaced persons. It is worth noting a slight decline in the number of internally displaced persons in protection sites owing to the closure of the Melut site and decongestion of the Wau protection sites. To reinforce the civilian character of the sites, UNMISS maintained weekly meetings with community leaders to remind them of their own responsibility in curtailing criminality within the sites. In Juba, following the attack on humanitarian staff of 25 October 2017, the Mission led meetings with community leaders and humanitarian services providers to address grievances and reiterate the Mission's zero-tolerance policy on violence against humanitarian partners. Regular town hall meetings with community representatives were organized in the Wau, Malakal and Bentiu sites to discuss the Mission's responses to criminality.

33. UNMISS conducted 164 search operations in protection of civilians sites, which resulted in the confiscation of prohibited items such as weapons, ammunition, illicit drugs and stolen United Nations property. As at 12 February 2018, a total of 25 persons suspected of being responsible for serious security incidents within the protection sites were detained in the UNMISS holding facilities in Bentiu, Juba and Malakal. A total of 342 crime and security incidents were recorded within the protection sites during the reporting period, with the highest incidence reported in Bentiu (160 incidents), followed by Juba (79 incidents) and Malakal (68 incidents). The most common security incidents recorded were assault (39), followed by theft (25). The most serious security incident in the protection sites occurred on 1 January in the Bentiu protection site, when four UNMISS peacekeepers sustained injuries and three UNMISS vehicles were damaged. On 25 January, UNMISS responded to a security situation related to an operation conducted by national security agencies to apprehend alleged kidnappers in the vicinity of a protection of civilians site in Juba. UNMISS closed off the site and increased patrolling within the weapons-free zone around the site while conducting a search operation to ensure the site was free of

suspicious persons or illicit activities. Tensions with the authorities over perceived criminality originating from within the protection of civilians sites in Juba have flared over several incidents in January, leading UNMISS to strengthen its patrolling and to work towards improving coordination and information-sharing with national authorities on the ground.

34. UNMISS continued to focus on deterring and mitigating violence against civilians beyond its protection sites. During the reporting period, a total of 6,124 patrols (short and long duration, dynamic air, riverine and foot) were conducted, including regular patrols outside the protection of civilians sites in Juba, Bentiu, Bor, Malakal and Wau. Efforts included proactive deployment and patrolling to areas affected by or threatened by conflict, including dismounted integrated patrols to assess the situation and facilitate engagement with host communities and displaced persons. UNMISS increased its patrolling efforts on the west bank of the Nile River and in the areas of Kaka, Maiwut, Nasir and Pagak. In Upper Nile, UNMISS continued regular patrols to Aburoc, Kodok and Tonga. The Mission also conducted patrols to SPLM/A in Opposition-held areas of Akobo, Cueibet, north-eastern Jonglei, Kajo Kaji, Raja, the Wau triangle area and Yei. It held discussions about re-establishing an UNMISS presence in Akobo to deter and mitigate conflict and to create an environment conducive to humanitarian assistance and the eventual return of internally displaced persons. On 25 January, UNMISS inaugurated a new base in Yei, Central Equatoria, with the aim of building confidence to encourage voluntary returns.

35. Under the third tier, establishment of a protective environment, UNMISS engaged with authorities and civil society to create a more conducive environment for displaced populations to return. In Melut, the Mission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in collaboration with humanitarian partners, supported the return of 255 displaced persons and the reintegration in Melut of around 300 people. The Melut protection of civilians site was closed on 20 December. In Bor, the Mission and humanitarian aid partners facilitated the return of 251 displaced persons to Fangak. In Wau, UNMISS and humanitarian actors progressed in the implementation of the action plan to create a protective and enabling environment for displaced populations to return. Concurrently, the Mission started to implement 20 quick-impact projects aimed at supporting host communities around the UNMISS protection of civilians sites, promoting peaceful coexistence, strengthening national police operations around the sites and creating conditions favourable to return and reintegration. In Bentiu, UNMISS also promoted the expansion of the weapons-free zone concept, with humanitarian actors and the Government agreeing to coordinate on clearing the zone around the perimeter and to create a ring road to facilitate UNMISS patrolling.

36. The Mission continued engaging with women at the subnational level on the prevention of sexual- and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, and enhancing women's participation in peace processes. As at the end of December, 21 dialogue processes and forums had been organized with women leaders in civil society and community-based organizations on the above-mentioned themes. Building on a joint study conducted with UNDP on capacities within the national justice system, the Mission has been collecting information and data on the prosecution of conflict-related crimes against women and children. This is part of efforts to establish a special unit focused on conflict-related crimes, in particular sexual and gender-based violence.

B. Monitoring and investigating human rights

37. The human rights environment in South Sudan remained poor. Human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including killings, conflict-related sexual violence and civilian displacement, continued throughout the country. During the reporting period, UNMISS verified the killing of at least 148 civilians, including 9 women, and at least 41 injury cases, including 11 women. There are strong indications that actual numbers are much higher, but insecurity and denials of access continue to hamper investigations of alleged human rights violations and abuses. During the reporting period, UNMISS human rights officers encountered delays and denials of access by SPLA, SPLA in Opposition forces and a county commissioner. UNMISS documented 19 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting a total of 24 female victims, including 11 children. Incidents comprised 10 cases of rape, 8 cases of gang rape and 1 attempted rape. Ten incidents were attributed to SPLA, six to the pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition, two to unidentified gunmen and one to the National Security Service.

38. Amid growing insecurity, on 11 December the President issued Republican Order No. 35/2017 declaring a three-month state of emergency in Western Lakes, Gok and Eastern Lakes and authorizing the use of force in disarming armed youth. UNMISS notes that the procedural requirements for the state of emergency appear not to have been met under South Sudanese law. The implementation of the state of emergency in Gogrial, Tonj, Wau and Aweil East, which had been extended through Republican Order No. 28/2017 on 9 November, continued during the reporting period. Concerns arose over reports of increased powers of arrest and detention of civilians given to SPLA, in particular in Gogrial and Aweil East, despite such authority not being authorized by law. During a public speech delivered on 26 January in Cueibet, Lakes, the Governor of Gok announced that under the state of emergency, crimes committed by civilians before and after the declaration of the state of emergency, such as murder, theft and looting, would be tried by the military tribunal. Furthermore, he warned that the army had received orders to disarm by force and to "shoot" in the event of refusal to comply. However, under the 2011 Transitional Constitution of South Sudan, the rights to life and to fair trial should not be suspended during a state of emergency.

39. Conditions of detention and prison facilities remain extremely poor, in contravention of international standards, with cases of prolonged, arbitrary and proxy detention. For example, on 20 November, during monitoring activities at Aweil Central Prison, UNMISS recorded 86 cases of prolonged and arbitrary detention. Overcrowding remains a key concern inside the facility, which, as at the end of January 2018, accommodated over 400 prisoners and detainees against a reported capacity of 150. On 22 December, in Torit Prison, UNMISS identified 65 pretrial detainees, including 8 male minors and 2 adult women, 9 of whose remand warrants had expired.

40. Accountability for crimes and violations committed in connection with the conflict and other human rights violations and abuses remains of concern. On 14 December, the President issued a decree promoting to positions within the SPLA leadership three officials who are on the sanctions list developed pursuant to Security Council resolution 2206 (2015). On 9 February, the Special Tribunal constituted by the SPLA General Court Martial announced the postponement of verdicts in the trial of 11 SPLA soldiers charged with various crimes and human rights violations at the Terrain Hotel compound in July 2016.

41. On 12 February, the High Court in Juba sentenced James Gatdet Dak, the former Press Secretary to the Leader of SPLM in Opposition, Riek Machar, to death by

hanging for violation of section 64 (Treason) of the South Sudan Penal Code Act (2008), 20 years' imprisonment for violation of section 75 (Publishing or Communicating False Statements Prejudicial to Southern Sudan), and one year in prison for violation of section 76 (Undermining Authority of or Insulting President). Mr. Dak has the right to appeal against the verdict within 15 days.

42. The environment for media and journalists in South Sudan remains very difficult, with journalists still vulnerable to unwarranted harassment, threats, arbitrary arrest and detention by security forces. On 24 November, UNMISS voiced its concerns to the National Security Service about censorship, incidents of which have continued to occur, such as of the *Juba Monitor* newspaper on 7 December and the *Dawn* newspaper on 15 December. On 7 February, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission published an annual report covering the period from July 2016 to June 2017. In the report, it was noted that conflict-related violations, such as killings, sexual violence and mass displacement of the civilian population, remain prevalent. Among other recommendations, the Commission called upon the Government to establish transitional justice institutions envisaged in chapter V of the 2015 peace agreement. Also in February, the UNMISS Human Rights Division and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights published a report on the right to freedom of opinion and expression in South Sudan since the July 2016 crisis.

43. During the reporting period, UNMISS conducted seven training sessions on human rights and international humanitarian law standards targeting 372 representatives, including 95 women, of government security organs. Public awareness campaigns on human rights included 25 sessions on basic human rights principles for 1,602 participants, including 1,061 women. From 25 November to 10 December, Human Rights Day, the United Nations supported outreach activities to mark the annual campaign of global activism to end gender-based violence. UNMISS also trained 40 National Security Service members and 30 members of State Legislative Assemblies in Juba on the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence.

44. During the reporting period, the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting on children in armed conflict documented 92 incidents, 42 of which were verified as grave violations, affecting at least 2,154 children (1,254 boys, 888 girls and 12 sex unknown). Almost half of the verified incidents were attributed to SPLA.

45. UNMISS and the United Nations Children's Fund continued supporting the national Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission in the age assessment screening of children associated with armed forces and groups in Western Equatoria. The assessment identified a total of 700 children, including 218 girls, as being associated with two armed groups. An initial group of 311 of the children was formally released on 7 February. UNMISS facilitated 50 training and sensitization sessions on child protection for 3,457 participants (1,242 women), drawn from UNMISS personnel, members of armed forces and groups, public authorities and community members.

C. Creating the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

46. UNMISS has continued to provide force protection for the delivery of humanitarian assistance where it is sought. Examples during the reporting period include protection for humanitarian assistance missions in Amadi, Ezo, Mundri and Tambura in Western Equatoria, Guit and Rubkona in Unity, and Aburoc and Tonga in Upper Nile. Engineering teams have also continued to rehabilitate and improve

sections of roads and bridges both for the benefit of the local economy and the delivery of humanitarian aid. Examples include repairs to the 205 kilometres of road from Malakal to Melut, begun in November; the repair of the Akoka bridge in Upper Nile in early January; and the rehabilitation of the Bor-Pibor road, completed in February. In December, the Mission announced plans to double the amount of road repair and rehabilitation work carried out annually by UNMISS, with a target of 2,350 kilometres in 2018.

47. During the reporting period, the Mine Action Service of the United Nations conducted survey and clearance activities in Aburoc, Mathiang and Urieng in Upper Nile, as requested by humanitarian aid organizations. Additionally, the Mine Action Service surveyed and cleared airstrips in Jangok, Malakal, Pibor and Rubkona to support Mission and humanitarian operations. During the reporting period, 49 mine action teams were deployed across the country, a total of 3,356,480 m^2 was surveyed and released and a further 11,126 explosive hazards and 178,409 small arms and ammunition were removed and destroyed.

D. Supporting the implementation of the peace agreement

48. My Special Representative continued to utilize his good offices to support the full implementation of the peace agreement and stress the importance of all parties participating in good faith in the IGAD-led high-level revitalization forum, attending both rounds of the talks held in Addis Ababa. He met with key opposition figures outside the country to encourage their participation in the revitalization efforts. He also met regularly with the President and national leaders in Juba, as well as state and local actors, to encourage their adherence to the cessation of hostilities agreement. In addition, he hosted regular meetings of the diplomatic community in Juba to align the positions of international partners in support of the overall peace process.

49. UNMISS continued to support the operations of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism by providing logistical support and force protection, facilitating the movement of the Mechanism's 12 monitoring and verification teams and participating in integrated patrols during field visits. Following the signing in December 2017 of the cessation of hostilities agreement and in the light of the Mechanism's increased responsibilities, UNMISS has met regularly with the Mechanism to streamline coordination and support, which has included planning to increase pre-emptive joint patrols and improve deployment responsiveness following ceasefire violations. From 23 to 25 January, UNMISS participated in a technical-level workshop in Addis Ababa with the Mechanism and relevant stakeholders, including armed groups and SPLA, to assist in the mapping of various armed group positions around the country.

50. In support of the peace agreement's aim of establishing Joint Integrated Police Units, UNMISS has been implementing recommendations to address registration, training and other issues that arose with the first batch of Joint Integrated Police. UNMISS police personnel have been providing post-training advice to five police divisions in Juba city and have assisted in developing the personnel records system at the Joint Integrated Police headquarters. Registration of Joint Integrated Police officers in the National Police Service database is ongoing.

51. Progress in establishing a Hybrid Court for South Sudan and other transitional justice mechanisms, as specified by the peace agreement, remains limited. In mid-December 2017, the Council of Ministers endorsed the draft statute and memorandum of understanding for the Hybrid Court. The statute sets out the role, structure, composition and jurisdiction of the planned court. From 12 to 14 December, a committee tasked by the Government with establishing a commission on truth,

reconciliation and healing organized a three-day discussion in Juba about the planned legislative basis for the commission. On 25 and 26 January, UNMISS and UNDP convened a meeting on transitional justice with the participation of community leaders from the protection of civilians sites in Juba and the Ministry of Justice to solicit views about transitional justice processes and the mechanisms set out in the 2015 peace agreement. Participants agreed that transitional justice should remain a priority area for discussion and recommended that the revitalization forum in Addis Ababa extend the deadlines for establishing transitional justice mechanisms and expedite the establishment of the Hybrid Court.

52. The Mission's public radio station, Radio Miraya, has taken an active role in raising public awareness of the December 2017 cessation of hostilities agreement. It continues to increase its programming and explore ways to expand its coverage to more remote parts of South Sudan. UNMISS is also developing printed information materials about the cessation of hostilities agreement, including in local languages, for distribution to the public. On 31 January and 1 February, the Mission supported a workshop on enhancing women's participation in peace processes in South Sudan.

VI. Mission staffing and status of deployment

53. As at 12 February 2018, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,664, including 876 international staff members (228 women, 26 per cent), 1,395 national staff members (197 women, 14 per cent) and 393 United Nations Volunteers (122 women, 31 per cent). During the reporting period, an UNMISS Focal Point for Women was appointed.

54. The police strength as at 12 February stood at 1,643 (out of an authorized 2,101 officers), comprising 553 individual police officers (110 women, 20 per cent), 1,019 personnel in formed police units (153 women, 15 per cent) and 71 corrections officers (20 women, 28 per cent). The arrival of a Ghanaian formed police unit of 170 officers in Wau and the deployment of an all-female Rwandan formed police unit in Juba are now expected in March 2018.

55. As at 12 February, the UNMISS troop strength stood at 12,987 military personnel, comprising 187 military liaison officers (15 women, 8 per cent), 384 military staff officers (42 women, 11 per cent) and 12,416 military contingent personnel (378 women, 3 per cent).

56. Out of the authorized 4,000 regional protection force troops, 1,030 have been inducted to date, including 27 out of the 41-person headquarters element, full complements of the Bangladesh Engineering Unit and the Nepalese High Readiness Company, and the advance company of the Ethiopian infantry battalion. In February, the main body of the Rwandan infantry battalion began arriving in the country and was expected to be fully deployed by early March.

57. UNMISS continued to strengthen its conduct and discipline programme, emphasizing the new approach of the Secretary-General as outlined in his report of February 2017 (A/71/818 and A/71/818/Corr.1 and A/71/818/Add.1). In keeping with the responsibilities outlined in that report, UNMISS conducted induction briefings for all newly recruited personnel and instituted a programme of mandatory refresher training focusing on the new approach of the Secretary-General. UNMISS has also developed a comprehensive sexual exploitation and abuse risk assessment plan that entails the regular conduct of risk assessments and follow-up and accountability for implementing the recommendations of those assessments.

58. All military contingents have carried out assessments of the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse in their respective locations. In partnership with the United

Nations task force on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, community-based complaint mechanisms have been established in Aweil, Bentiu, Bor, Gorom, Juba, Malakal and Yambio. The aim is to provide the local community with safe, confidential and reliable channels for reporting any allegations of violations by United Nations personnel. In December 2017, the United Nations Victims' Rights Advocate visited South Sudan to reinforce the efforts of UNMISS and the United Nations country team to support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. During the reporting period, UNMISS recorded 12 allegations, bringing the current total number of open allegations to 139.

VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and security of United Nations personnel

59. During the reporting period, UNMISS recorded 30 incidents involving violations of the status-of-forces agreement. Of particular concern was an incident that occurred in Leer on 30 November 2017 in which SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces engaged in heavy fighting in close proximity to the UNMISS temporary operating base. UNMISS protested the incident to the Governor of Southern Liech, who undertook not to deploy soldiers or allow weapons to be discharged in the vicinity of the base.

60. In total, 12 incidents involving movement restrictions that affected UNMISS operations were recorded. Of particular concern has been the restriction of UNMISS foot patrols in Torit since 13 December 2017. To date, the Government has not yet provided cogent reasons for the restriction. During the reporting period, five cases were recorded of denial of access to UNMISS human rights officers monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation. Two new cases of arrest and detention of UNMISS personnel were also reported. In one of the cases, the arrested staff member was released after being detained for four days, while in the other case the arrested staff member was released after being detained for around six hours. The whereabouts of two staff members arrested in 2014 remains unknown, and UNMISS has been denied access to them, despite multiple requests directed to the highest levels of the Government.

61. Violations of the obligation to facilitate the entry of UNMISS personnel into South Sudan continued to occur. On 26 November 2017, five UNMISS personnel holding valid entry visas were denied re-entry into the country at Juba International Airport by officers of the Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration because they did not have exit stamps from their points of departure in their United Nations laissez-passers. Aside from those incidents, there were two recorded cases of UNMISS personnel being harassed or assaulted and two recorded cases of UNMISS property being seized.

62. Six incidents involving the pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition were recorded. Four incidents in Upper Nile and one in Western Bahr el-Ghazal constituted violations of freedom of movement, while one case recorded in Unity involved a threat to UNMISS personnel and premises.

63. UNMISS continues to notify the Government about violations through a monthly record of events and in-person meetings with relevant officials.

64. To prevent and mitigate threats to United Nations personnel, premises and assets, the Mission continues to implement security risk management measures, including enhancing the physical protection of United Nations premises, the use of alert and staff tracking systems and closer cooperation, information-sharing and liaison with Government security agencies. UNMISS continues to use its multimedia

communications and outreach channels to promote public understanding of the Mission's mandate and the role of peacekeepers in building peace and protecting civilians in South Sudan.

VIII. Financial aspects

65. The General Assembly, by its resolution 71/308, appropriated the amount of $1,071,000,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. As at 14 February 2018, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNMISS Special Account amounted to $285.4 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at the same date amounted to $2,512.5 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs has been made for the period up to 31 October 2017, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 September 2017, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations and recommendations

66. The revitalization forum convened by IGAD presents an important opportunity for the Government and parties in opposition to resume dialogue aimed at bringing about sustainable peace. The cessation of hostilities agreement signed on 21 December was a significant achievement and gave a positive sign that the parties could be willing to finally silence the guns and work towards peace. However, the ensuing verified violations and the exchanges of accusations between the parties have called into question the determination of the parties to honour the agreements they sign. Once again, I must remind the parties that, as emphasized in the African Union Peace and Security Council communique of 8 February, the region and the international community are watching closely, and that there will be consequences for individual violators and spoilers of the agreement. These revitalization efforts represent a chance for the parties to show the world — and the people of South Sudan — that they can put aside differences for the sake of the nation and its people. It requires that dialogue and agreements be matched by commensurate changes in the actions of all parties and an improvement in the situation on the ground.

67. At the same time, noting the risks that may arise from disparate and uncoordinated peace initiatives, I urge the neighbours of South Sudan, the region and the wider international community to ensure that all efforts are well coordinated towards reinforcing the peace process and demonstrate a unity of purpose from regional and international stakeholders, which is critical for ending the crisis in South Sudan.

68. Inside South Sudan, it is encouraging to observe the generally open and relatively frank discussions during the national dialogue consultations, as well as the expressions of positive intent from those leading the national dialogue. It is clear that shortcomings in the coverage and inclusiveness of the dialogue exist. But I encourage the leaders of the national dialogue to be bold, and the Government of South Sudan to be open to views and recommendations from the dialogue. I also urge the Government to take measures to address the worsening human rights situation in the country, which at present is still grave.

69. In tandem with the requirements for peace, there are humanitarian requirements for saving lives and helping the millions of South Sudanese who face poverty, food insecurity and scarcity of basic services. I commend the efforts being made in this regard by humanitarian aid organizations and workers. The level of threats and risks that they face in their work, however, is unacceptable, as is attested by the number of

humanitarian workers killed in South Sudan: 28 in 2017, which is a new high. I therefore urge all parties to abstain from actions that may disrupt the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and to abstain from imposing other constraints on the delivery of assistance. Similarly, I call upon the Government to abide by its commitments to remove obstructions to UNMISS and to facilitate its operations, including the deployment of the regional protection force.

70. The Security Council is due to consider the extension of the UNMISS mandate in March 2018 following the completion of the review of the Mission. I trust that the Council will consider closely the recommendations of the review and will further update it, taking into consideration the outcome of the high-level revitalization forum.

71. In conclusion, I wish to convey my sincere appreciation for the steadfast commitment of UNMISS military, police and civilian personnel. Under the leadership of my Special Representative, David Shearer, they work courageously to protect hundreds of thousands of civilians, safeguard human rights, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and promote an inclusive political process. I particularly thank the troop- and police-contributing countries that have provided much-needed uniformed personnel and assets to the Mission. I further commend the United Nations country team and non-governmental organization partners for their tremendous courage and sacrifice in providing vital humanitarian assistance to the population, in arduous and sometimes dangerous conditions. I also thank my Special Envoy, Nicholas Haysom, for his support to the peace process at the regional level. I commend the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, the former President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, and the African Union High Representative for South Sudan, the former President of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konaré, for their commitment to addressing the plight of the civilian population of South Sudan in partnership with the United Nations.

UNMISS FORCE DEPLOYMENT
February 2018
SUDAN
SOUTH SUDAN
ETHIOPIA
KENYA
UGANDA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
DEM REP OF THE CONGO
Juba
Bentiu
Malakal
Bor
Wau
Rumbek
Yambio
Aweil
Kuajok
Torit
Kapoeta
Pibor
Akobo
Nasir
Renk
Melut
Ulang
Paloich
Maban
Raja
Ezo
Tambura
Yei
Mundri
Maridi
Terekeka
Kajo Keji
Lankien
Leer
Mayom
Abyei
Abyei region**
Main road
National capital
State (+ eff. capital)
Town
Major airport
International boundary
UNMISS operational northern limit*
State (+ eff. boundary)
Sector boundary
Railroad
Sector West
Sector North
Sector East
FHQ
FORWARD HQ
RSF (Juba)
BANGLADESH
NEPAL
ETHIOPIA 3
RWANDA 3
MONGOLIA
GHANA
CAMBODIA
INDIA
CHINA
KOREA (RDO)
SRI LANKA
RWANDA
FPU
MP
HR
IR
EP
* Final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined
** Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Map No. 4169 Rev. 31 UNITED NATIONS
February 2018 (Colour)
Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)

United Nations S/2018/164

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2018

Original: English

Côte d'Ivoire: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, statements of its President and press statements on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, in particular resolutions 1876 (2009), 2030 (2011), 2048 (2012), 2092 (2013), 2103 (2013), 2157 (2014), 2186 (2014), 2203 (2015), 2267 (2016) and 2343 (2017),

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on Guinea-Bissau, dated 9 February 2018 (S/2018/110) and the recommendations contained therein, and underscoring the Secretary-General's positive appreciation of the role of his Special Representative and head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) in assisting the Government of Guinea-Bissau,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Guinea Bissau, emphasizing that the Bissau-Guinean authorities have primary responsibility for the provision of stability and security throughout the territory of the country, and underscoring the importance of national ownership to implement inclusive political, peace and security related initiatives,

Stressing the continued need for the Government of Guinea-Bissau to take concrete steps towards ensuring peace, security and stability in the country, by inclusively resolving the Guinea Bissau political crisis, organizing free, fair, credible and transparent legislative and presidential elections as stipulated in the Bissau-Guinean Constitution, effectively reforming the security sector, tackling corruption through the reinforcement of the judicial system, improving public administration and State revenue management, as well as the supply of basic services to the population, promoting and protecting human rights and commending its commitment to the implementation of its national priorities,

Expressing concern regarding the ongoing protracted political and institutional crisis among the main political actors, including but not limited to the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Parliament and Head of political parties in Guinea Bissau which has prevented the country from moving forward with ensuring peace and stability through implementing its national reform agenda and threatens to undermine the progress made since the restoration of constitutional order following the elections held in 2014,

Expressing also concern for the situation of citizens of Guinea-Bissau, who are suffering the negative effects of the political crisis, and urging all political actors to put the interest of the Bissau-Guinean people above all other consideration,

Please recycle

Welcoming the continued engagement of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Modibo Ibrahim Touré, the President of the Republic of Togo, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the President of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency Alpha Conde, in his capacity of ECOWAS Mediator for Guinea-Bissau, the Special Representative of the African Union, Ovidio Pequeno, and other interlocutors in the search for a peaceful solution to the impasse and *recalling* the need for concerted action among the United Nations, ECOWAS, the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), and the European Union (EU),

Welcoming also the continued efforts of the five international organizations involved in the peacebuilding process in Guinea-Bissau (African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS, European Union, United Nations) and supporting their appeals to all stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau, to respect the principles established in the UN Charter and their obligations under International Human Rights Treaties and to refrain from any public action or discourse likely to aggravate tensions in the country,

Recalling, that the implementation of the Conakry Agreement of 14 October 2016, based on the ECOWAS road map entitled "Agreement on the resolution of the political crisis in Guinea-Bissau", is the primary framework for a peaceful resolution of the political crisis, as it offers an historic opportunity for national authorities and political leaders, as well as civil society, to jointly ensure political stability and build sustainable peace,

Commending the continued mediation efforts of ECOWAS to promote the implementation of the ECOWAS road map and the Conakry Agreement, as demonstrated by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of States and Government, in Addis Ababa, on 27 January 2018, Inviting the President of Guinea-Bissau to appoint a consensus Prime Minister and the signatory parties to form a government in conformity with the Conakry Agreement, no later than 31 January 2018, and *acknowledging* the communique of 01 February 2018, following its high level mediation mission to Bissau and determination that the Conakry Agreement had not been respected, and, in this regard, its direction to the president of the commission to implement sanctions against any person or organization impeding the process for ending the crisis in Guinea Bissau and *noting* the ECOWAS Authority's strong appeal to the African Union, CPLP, European Union and United Nations to support ECOWAS in the effective implementation of these sanctions,

Emphasizing the need for respect of democratic principles and stressing the importance of national reconciliation, inclusive dialogue and good governance, essential for the attainment of lasting peace in Guinea-Bissau, further stressing the importance of including all Bissau-Guineans ensuring the full and effective participation of women and youth in this process at national and local levels, while upholding the principles of separation of powers, rule of law, justice and combating impunity, and encouraging all stakeholders to engage in the process,

Noting that delays in the implementation of the Conakry Agreement have undermined the efforts of dialogue and the review of the applicable legal framework before the holding of the legislative and presidential elections in 2018 and 2019, respectively, and further *taking note* that the institutional paralysis, in particular of the National Assembly, has prevented progress in relation to the review of the Constitution,

Stressing that the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau can only result from a consensual, inclusive and nationally owned process, respect for constitutional order, priority reforms in the defence, security and justice sectors, the promotion of the rule of law, the protection of human rights, the promotion of

socioeconomic development and the fight against impunity and drug trafficking, in the framework of the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Guinea-Bissau,

Reaffirming the importance of the continued non-interference of the defence and security forces in the political situation in Guinea-Bissau, and commending the restraint shown in this regard as well as the peacefulness of the people of Guinea-Bissau,

Underscoring the importance of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, with the support of UNIOGBIS and international partners, to continue developing national security and rule of law institutions that are impartial, transparent, accountable and professional,

Stressing that all stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau should work to ensure short, medium and long-term stability through clear commitment and genuine inclusive political dialogue aimed at creating conditions conducive to finding viable and sustainable solutions to the country's social, economic, political and military problems, which would facilitate the implementation of key reforms and the strengthening of State institutions,

Encouraging continued efforts of the Government to ensure effective civilian control and oversight over the defence and security forces, as failure to do so could adversely affect the effective functioning of State institutions, as a result of collusion between some political actors and the military leadership,

Commending the efforts of ECOWAS in helping to sustain peace, security and development and to support the security sector reform (SSR) process in Guinea-Bissau namely through the activities of its Mission (ECOMIB),

Welcoming the continued contribution of ECOMIB in promoting stability in Guinea-Bissau and *encouraging* the international community to continue supporting and assisting ECOMIB,

Encouraging the commitment, efforts of mediation and direct contacts of the African Union with the political actors of Guinea Bissau in view of stepping up the efforts to help overcome the current blockage of the political situation,

Reiterating its call on the Government of Guinea-Bissau to conduct transparent, independent and credible investigations into human rights violations and abuses, in accordance with international standards, and to hold those responsible accountable for their actions,

Reiterating its concern at the threat posed by drug trafficking, as well as trafficking in all forms, including trafficking in persons, and related transnational organized crime to peace and stability; and, in this regard, *encouraging* sustained efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, ECOWAS, UNIOGBIS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other relevant stakeholders in combating this issue,

Re-emphasizing the need to tackle the problem of drug trafficking in the countries of origin, transit and final destination on a basis of a common and shared responsibility, to tackle the world drug problem and related criminal activities; and, in this regard, stressing the need for increased coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant partners to enhance their collective efforts, in particular through sharing of information, underlining that any lasting solution to instability in Guinea-Bissau should include concrete actions to fight impunity and ensure that those responsible for politically motivated assassinations and other serious crimes such as breaches of constitutional order and drug trafficking-related activities are brought to justice, including through national judicial mechanisms,

Reiterating the importance and urgency of the continued evaluation capacity and support provided by the relevant United Nations entities and international, regional, sub-regional and bilateral partners for the long-term security and development of Guinea-Bissau, particularly towards the implementation of security and justice sectors reforms, the fight against transnational organized crime as well as the creation of an enabling environment for good governance and inclusive and sustainable social development, and in this regard, commending the important work UNODC in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities in Guinea -Bissau and the sub-region, and encouraging enhanced cooperation between UNODC and UNIOGBIS,

Urging Bissau-Guinean national stakeholders to demonstrate the necessary commitment to re-establish momentum for progress in key areas, as outlined in the programme "Terra Ranka" presented to the donor community at the Brussels round table held in March 2015,

Emphasizing the role of UNICEF working closely with government to create the proper conditions to provide education for the children of Guinea -Bissau,

Emphasizing the important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, as recognized in resolutions 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolution on women, peace and security,

Emphasizing the cooperation between UNIOGBIS, national authorities and civil society organizations to increase women's social and political participation in Guinea-Bissau and underlining that a gender perspective must continue to inform the implementation of all relevant aspects of the mandate of UNIOGBIS, including national reconciliation processes, institution building and to address the root causes of instability,

Reaffirming that Guinea-Bissau's partners should continue to actively and closely coordinate their actions in support of the Government's efforts to address the country's political, security and development challenges, and in this regard, recalling the coordinated and long-standing support provided by the country's partners, namely those in the United Nations system, the African Union, ECOWAS, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), the EU, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank, to the Government during the International Donor Conference for Guinea-Bissau held on 25 March 2015 in Brussels,

Welcoming the African Union Peace and Security Council Communiqué of its 734th meeting, held on 14 November 2017, underscoring the need for credible elections, notably legislative elections in 2018 to be held according to legal timelines,

Welcoming the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) with Guinea Bissau, and *noting* the briefing by the Chair of the PBC configuration for Guinea Bissau on 14 February 2018 reiterating its support to the Conakry Agreement, stressing the importance of holding free and fair elections in accordance with the Constitution of Guinea Bissau, and underlining the importance of renewing the mandate of UNIOGBIS of another year,

Reaffirming its full commitment to the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau,

Renewal of the mandate

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of UNIOGBIS for a period of 12 months beginning on 1 March 2018 until 28 February 2019;

2. *Calls* for the implementation of the recommendations of the strategic review mission regarding the need of UNIOGBIS to refocus its existing efforts

towards political capacities in support of the SRSG's good offices and to streamline its management structure, and *encourages* UNIOGBIS to operate in a more effective and efficient manner;

3. *Requests* UNIOGBIS, including through the use of the good offices and political support of the Special Representative, to focus, in particular, on the following priorities:

(a) Support the full implementation of the Conakry Agreement and the ECOWAS Roadmap, and facilitate an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process, strengthening democratic governance, particularly with regards to the implementation of necessary urgent reforms;

(b) Support, through good offices the electoral process to ensure inclusive, free and credible legislative elections in 2018 within the legally mandated time frame;

(c) Providing support, including by technical assistance, to national authorities in expediting and completing the review of Guinea-Bissau's Constitution;

4. *Affirms* that in addition to the abovementioned priorities, UNIOGBIS and the Special Representative will continue to assist, coordinate and lead international efforts in the following areas to ensure lasting peace and stability in Guinea Bissau:

(a) Providing support to the Government of Guinea-Bissau in strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing the capacity of state organs to function effectively and constitutionally;

(b) Assisting national authorities and stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as undertake human rights monitoring and reporting activities;

(c) Providing strategic and technical advice and support to the Government of Guinea-Bissau to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, in close cooperation with UNODC;

(d) Providing support to the Government of Guinea-Bissau to incorporate a gender perspective into peacebuilding, in line with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and 2242 (2015); as well as implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender in order to ensure the involvement, representation and participation of women at all levels through inter alia the provision of gender advisers;

(e) Support the Government of Guinea Bissau, in close cooperation with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, in the mobilization, harmonization and coordination of international assistance namely from African Union, ECOWAS, CPLP and the European Union, with view to upcoming elections;

Political and human rights situation

5. *Supports* the efforts of ECOWAS to ensure a swift resolution of the crisis and took note of its decision of 4 February 2018 to impose sanctions against those obstructing the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, the only consensual framework to find a lasting solution to this crisis, whose prerequisite remains the appointment of a consensus Prime Minister and an inclusive Government;

6. *Calls* upon the Bissau-Guinea stakeholders to strictly respect and comply with the Conakry Agreement and the ECOWAS road map in addressing their differences and the challenges facing their country, and *further calls* upon the Bissau-Guinea stakeholders to refrain from actions and statements that could escalate tensions and incite violence;

7. *Urges* all political actors to put the interest of the people of Guinea Bissau above all other consideration and in this regard, calls upon Bissau-Guinean leaders to strictly respect and comply with the Conakry Agreement and the Bissau 6 point roadmap in addressing their differences and the challenges facing their country, especially in view of stipulated legislative elections in 2018 and further calls upon the Bissau-Guinean stakeholders to refrain from actions and statements that could escalate tensions and incite violence;

8. *Stresses* the importance of holding legislative elections within the legally-mandated timeframe in 2018, and presidential elections in 2019; recalls the relevance of passing key reforms, as outlined in the Conakry Agreement, aimed at creating a conducive environment for the holding of legislative and presidential elections in 2018 and 2019, reform of the electoral code and promulgation of a new law on political parties and *requests* UNIOGBIS to work closely with national authorities, as well as the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in support of the timely conduct of these elections, and to strengthen democracy and good governance;

9. *Calls* upon the authorities of Guinea-Bissau and all stakeholders, including the military, political parties, and civil society to engage in inclusive, genuine dialogue, and work together to consolidate progress made so far, and to address the root causes of instability with particular attention to political-military dynamics, constitutional review, ineffective state institutions and rule of law, impunity and human rights violations and abuses, poverty and lack of access to basic services;

10. *Underscores* the need for inclusive dialogue of all stakeholders to consolidate peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau and calls upon the national authorities to expedite the review of Guinea-Bissau's Constitution;

11. *Calls* on the security and defence services to continue to submit themselves fully to civilian control;

12. *Commends* the important efforts of ECOWAS and *encourages* ECOWAS to continue extending its political support to the authorities and political leaders of Guinea Bissau through the use of good offices and mediation;

13. *Encourages* ECOWAS and CPLP to take the necessary steps towards organizing a meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau, in consultation with the United Nations, EU, and all stakeholders;

14. *Takes* note of the human rights situation in the country and urges the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to take all necessary measures to promote and protect human rights, put an end to impunity, initiate investigations to identify the perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses, including those against women and children, and bring them to justice and take action to protect witnesses in order to ensure due process;

15. *Deplores* the reported lack of respect for the right of peaceful assembly as recognized by the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau, as well as the legal instruments of ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations on the matter and *urges* all Guinea-Bissau authorities to ensure strict respect for their obligations under international human rights laws;

16. *Welcomes* the joint efforts by international partners, in particular the United Nations, African Union, ECOWAS, EU and CPLP, to enhance cooperation in support of the Government in Guinea-Bissau and encourages them to continue to work together towards the country's stabilization in accordance with the priority structural reforms established by the government, and in this regard, recognizes the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in enhancing these efforts with a view to supporting the long-term peacebuilding priorities of Guinea-Bissau;

17. *Reiterates* the importance of the implementation of defence and security sector reforms as a crucial element for long-term stability in Guinea-Bissau and further encourages coordinated action by all relevant sub-regional, regional and international partners of Guinea-Bissau in this field in order to obtain expeditious and positive results;

18. *Welcomes* the extension by ECOWAS of the mandate of ECOMIB until 31 March 2018 to enable the political actors in Guinea-Bissau to effectively implement the Conakry Agreement, *commends* the crucial role of ECOMIB in securing the state institutions and in supporting SSR, expresses strong appreciation for its contribution to stability in Guinea-Bissau and encourages ECOWAS to consider a further extension of its mandate, supports its continuation throughout the electoral cycles in 2018 and 2019 and urges bilateral, regional and international partners to consider providing financial assistance to support ECOWAS in sustaining the deployment of ECOMIB, commends the financial support provided by the EU and welcomes its willingness to consider options for providing further support to ECOMIB;

19. *Calls* upon the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to continue to actively reform and strengthen the judicial system, while ensuring the separation of powers and access to justice for all citizens;

20. *Reiterates* its call upon the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to implement and review national legislations and mechanisms to more effectively combat transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and money-laundering, which threaten security and stability in Guinea-Bissau and in the sub-region, and in this context, to ensure support to the Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) established under the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) and the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) and national counternarcotics enforcement units; *encourages* international bilateral and multilateral partners to increase their support to these institutions and further encourages these partners to contribute to support the presence of UNODC in Guinea-Bissau and to the UNIOGBIS Trust Fund for immediate, medium and longer-term priorities; calls upon the international community to continue cooperation with Guinea-Bissau to enable it to ensure control of air traffic and surveillance of maritime security within its jurisdiction, in particular to fight drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, as well as illegal fishing in Guinea-Bissau's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone and other cases of illegal exploitation of natural resources; and calls on the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to demonstrate full commitment to combating drug trafficking through provision of adequate resources and political support to counternarcotic units, their investigations and pursuit of accountability for perpetrators;

21. *Stresses* the importance of combating drug trafficking to achieve political and economic stability in Guinea-Bissau, requests the Secretary-General to ensure the relevant capacity within the existing UNIOGBIS structure, and requests that the Secretary-General collaborate with UNODC and international partners to guarantee sufficient staffing for the UNODC office in Bissau, to contribute to the anti-drug efforts, including appropriate expertise and further requests the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to increase efforts to achieve greater coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the country to maximize their collective effectiveness, in particular through provision by these agencies, funds and programmes of relevant information to the Special Representative on individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with drug trafficking and transnational organized crime that contribute to creating a threat to the peace, stability and security of Guinea-Bissau and the sub-region;

22. *Commends* the good offices role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to support the Government of Guinea-Bissau;

23. *Commends* the important efforts of ECOWAS, *encourages* ECOWAS to continue extending its political support to the authorities and political leaders of Guinea-Bissau through the use of good offices and mediation, further *encourages* the African Union, the CPLP, the European Union and the United Nations to provide support to ECOWAS, and *acknowledges*, in this regard its 04 February 2018 adoption of targeted sanctions against those impeding the process to end the crisis in Guinea Bissau as well as the request by ECOWAS and African Union to support their implementation of these sanctions;

24. *Stresses* the need for all national stakeholders and Guinea-Bissau's international bilateral and multilateral partners to remain committed to enforce the Conakry Agreement and, in this context, *encourage* ECOWAS to continue close coordination with the United Nations, African Union, CPLP and European Union aimed at the implementation of the Conakry Agreement;

25. *Welcomes* continued engagement of the African Union in promoting a peaceful solution to the current political impasse in Guinea Bissau and the Communique of the 752nd meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union number PCS/Pr/COMM. (DCCLII) issued on 13 February 2018 in this regard;

26. *Express* the Security Council's readiness to take additional measures to respond to further worsening of the situation in Guinea Bissau;

27. *Decides* to review the sanctions measures established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) seven months from the adoption of this resolution;

Reporting

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an oral update within 3 months on the political and security situation in Guinea Bissau and its preparation for elections, and submit to the Security Council regular reports every six months on the implementation of this resolution, and within 9 months submit the Secretary-General's assessment of the Mission including options for a possible reconfiguration of the United Nations presence in the country and re-prioritization of tasks, and to submit a report within six months, with a briefing to the Committee established pursuant to its resolution 2048 (2012), on the progress made with regards to the stabilization of the country and restoration of constitutional order and recommendations on the continuation of the sanctions regime in the post-election environment, in line with paragraph 12 of resolution 2048 (2012);

29. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.